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Vol. 2

Holidays: tis the season for shopping & studying

Stores see moderate sales

By STEVE KANIGHER

Most local store managers surveyed by the Times Journal said Christmas shopping up to now is similar to or slower than it was last year at the same time. But there's a general consensus that activity will pick up during the final week before the holiday.

Hal Denham, executive director of the Albany Chamber of Commerce, noted that last-minute shopping is a tradition in Albany. Most shoppers, he said, will probably stick to medium-priced items. High-priced items like cars, he said, are moving slow because of high interest rates.

Consumers also appear to be using their credit cards less often in

local stores, according to Del Wiesner, executive manager of the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce. He said holiday shopping locally is down 10 to 15 percent over last year but said shopkeepers are optimistic that business will pick up this week.

Capwell's spokesperson Teri Foley noted that shoppers are waiting to the last minute because they are taking more time to compare prices and quality than they did in the past. Despite the recession, people are willing to spend more money on "better quality, high end" merchandise than in the past, she said.

Foley said the most popular items this holiday season at Capwell's in

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El Cerrito's Julie Ewer, age 3, and a friend wait in line to see Santa. See Page 21.

City taxi limit lifted to aid elderly

By BARBARA ERICKSON

ALBANY — The city has lifted its limit of 16 taxicab permits in response to increased demand on taxi service from a new transportation program for the elderly.

The council agreed unanimously

last night to set no limit on the number of cabs operating in the city

unless staff to come up with a

new number that would best serve

the elderly.

Administrator William

had recommended the

program because elderly and

handicapped persons have been heavy

users of a new tax script program

through the Metropolitan

Transportation Commission. The

city replaced the city's van for

elderly, which still operates on a

fixed basis for emergencies.

Today the council also approved

permits for the Bay Area Cab

Company, bringing the total to 16

for the first time in three years.

When the city set the limit in

1977, when Cab Company went out of

business. Then the number of per-

mits dropped to six and only this

year the city returned to its previ-

ous ratio of one cab per 1,000 residents. Albany has 16,000 residents.

The ratio seemed to work, Haden said, because the city received few complaints about delayed services when the full 16 cabs were operating, but with the script program the

ratio was not the number that would best serve

the elderly.

Administrator William

had recommended the

program because elderly and

handicapped persons have been heavy

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spond."

Morgan Spicer of Spicer Cab Company and Lawrence Kinney of Bay Area Cab Company told the council the increased paperwork for the script program is hard on the companies. They also complained about the 10 percent discount for the elderly required to take part in the project.

But Haden said the script program is "the greatest source of income to the business. If I were a cab company I wouldn't complain at all." He said Berkeley, which administers Albany's program, is cutting back on the paperwork requirements.

In a separate agenda item Monday, the council upheld a decision of the planning commission denying the Breems Shiatzi Center of 907 Key Route Blvd., a use permit to operate a learning and health improvement center. The vote was 6-0 with Councilman William Johns abstaining.

The center, which holds classes afternoons and evenings, was denied the permit because residents of the neighborhood have complained about the noise, traffic and parking problems.

The council also unanimously approved the conversion of 13 apartments at 785 Taft St. into condominium units, the last conversion to take place under the present law. Next year a new ordinance setting out requirements for notice, permit procedures and help in relocation goes into effect.

Albany realtor Jerome Blank told the council Monday that some residents are taking advantage of the city's garage sale ordinance — which allows permits for two sales a year — to run businesses. He said the sales create "ugly eyesores."

"All this junk and clutter," he said, "why do you allow it?"

The council agreed to discuss the issue next year, but Councilwoman Anne Rotramel said holding garage

sales twice a year does not seem to be the same thing as running a business.

On its last meeting of the year the council came in for praise from civic activist Dario Meniketti for the passage of a new goat ordinance last summer. Meniketti said the council realized "the use of goats for weed abatement was an idea whose time had come" and commended the council for "conviction, foresight and resolve."

In other actions Monday the council:

• Approved the transfer of a liquor license to Solano Avenue Deli and Gourmet at 1007 Solano Ave.

• Granted a business license exemption to Citizens for a Better Environment, a group which conduct research and provides legal expertise on toxic substances.

• Approved a new entertainment ordinance which updates the former law and includes technical changes made in recent years.

Pancake breakfast scheduled

EL CERRITO — The Lion's Club is holding a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 21, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Cerrito City Club.

Cost of the breakfast is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children under 13. Money from the event will go to community projects such as the boy scouts and organizations for the blind.

Tickets are available at the door or from Cub Scouts in Pack No. 122.

Schools stress cultural mix

By ROBERTA ALEXANDER

In a society in which the big Christmas push starts before the bones of the Thanksgiving turkey have been picked clean, it is sometimes hard for a school to know how to handle the holiday season.

By law, public schools may not teach religion, but beyond that dictum, the waters get a bit cloudy. Just where does the teaching of cultural diversity become the teaching of religion?

The guidelines that apply in the Richmond Unified School District acknowledge the complexity of the issue: "no other exercise or occasion in the public schools provides as much difficulty for those who recognize that even a multi-denominational religion may not be 'estab-

lished' than does Christmas."

The district walks a line between its legal obligation not to act like a church and its function as an educational institution. Schools, according to the RUSD guidelines, "have the unique commitment to teach the meaning, the obligations and the rights of citizenship."

What that translates into, in a more practical way, is a series of guidelines for teachers and administrators. For one thing, principals are advised to be aware of the holiday activities planned by each teacher.

Thus, "it will not be necessary for a field administrator to say, 'I had no idea Miss So-and-So was doing this,'" the guidelines note.

(Continued on Page 4)

Regional recycling plan reaches critical stages

• See related story, Page 4

By STEVE KANIGHER

EL CERRITO — The effort to establish a regional recycling center in Richmond is picking up steam. That effort, along with the latest developments of a proposed \$46 million energy conversion plant for West Contra Costa County, will be discussed in a public meeting at the Shields-Reed Park Community Center, 1410 Kelsey, Richmond, on Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m.

Planning of the regional recycling center is now in the hands of a seven-member committee headed by Contra Costa County Supervisor Tom Powers, with representatives from six cities.

They include former El Cerrito Mayor Ernest Del Simone, Council members Ruth Ganong of Albany, John Koepke of San Pablo, and Anna McCarty of Pinole. Hercules city manager Ralph Snyder and Roy Wakadegawa, an engineer in the Richmond Public Works Department.

The planners, who first met last month, decided at their Dec. 6 meeting in El Cerrito that it would be economically feasible for the regional recycling center to be located adjacent to the larger energy con-

version plant.

In the works for the past few years, the energy conversion plant would be able to convert 575 tons daily of garbage and waste water treatment sludge from the west county into useable steam and electricity. One of the purposes of this plant is to reduce the county's reliance on nearby garbage landfill sites, which are close to capacity. Tentatively, the electricity would be sold to Pacific Gas and Electric Company and the steam would be sold to local industries.

Although no site has yet been established for the plant, the proposed area has been narrowed down to a portion of west central Richmond between Parr Boulevard and Castro Street (see map on page four).

A decision on the exact site is expected to be made by April, with operation to begin as early as October, 1983, after a series of public hearings on the matter.

El Cerrito's community services director, Joel Witherell, an advisor to the recycling planning committee, said the recycling operation could begin as early as late 1982 or early 1983. By then, the only function of the E.C.ology recycling center on the east end of Schmidt Lane in El Cerrito would be as a drop-off point for donated materials which then would be delivered to the regional center.

Witherell added that E.C.ology probably will get out of the buy-back program, involving the purchase of

recycling material from consumers, within a year or two. The program, a sore spot among nearby residents who claim it attracts excessive traffic and noise, brings in about 200 tons of material a month. Witherell said the equipment E.C.ology uses for this purpose would be leased to an individual or company who would be willing to run the program on their own.

Several things have to fall into place, though, if the recycling center is to become a reality.

The recycling planning committee has asked the West County Agency to provide for free the land to be used by the recycling operation, because of the lack of state or federal funds to purchase such land. The West County Agency, a joint powers agreement between Richmond and the West Contra Costa Sanitary District, is responsible for planning the energy conversion plant.

Witherell also is working on a \$300,000 grant request for initial site preparation, equipment purchases (including a \$140,000 paper baler) and experimentation which will be submitted to the State Solid Waste Management Board. The deadline for the application is Jan. 9 to cover the period between July, 1981, and June, 1982. Each city council in the west county has been asked to support the grant application. El Cerrito

Early deadlines

The Times Journal has altered its news deadlines because of the upcoming holidays.

Instead of the usual Thursday 5 p.m. deadline, all news releases and other editorial materials for the Dec. 31 and Jan. 7 editions must be in the Times Journal office by Wednesday at 5 p.m. of the preceding week.

Display and classified advertising deadlines remain the same.

(Continued on Page 4)

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A VAN FOR ALL SEASONS — El Cerrito now has a second wheelchair-lift equipped van, making it possible to expand service for residents who are over 60 or handicapped. Call Dial-A-Ride (234-7447) a day ahead for medical appointments and the same morning for

shopping or other trips. The new van, funded by a grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, is shown with its drivers (from left) E.L. Mays, Jack Parameter, General Lee, Floyd Tinkham and Benny Ramer.

Around city hall

The housing shortage

By LOUIS GEORGE
City Council Member

ALBANY — Recently, we on the Albany City Council submitted several ballot measures to the city's planning commission, the committee on aging, and the housing and community development committee for their consideration. These ballot measures dealt with housing. The council asked these advisory bodies to review the draft ballot measures and provide their ideas for a senior citizen housing program. This proposed program will assist in meeting the housing needs of the elderly within Albany.

The city staff has recommended that the council consider these measures in an attempt to increase the stock of rental housing available for Albany senior residents. The city finds itself in a situation where the supply of rental housing is not adequate for the demand. This is particularly true for the senior citizens. Many older people would like to sell or rent their single-family homes and move into an apartment where the maintenance would be performed for them. There are very few rental housing opportunities available within the city.

In order to begin a housing program, the council must consider Article 34 of the State Constitution. This article was passed in 1950 and provides that no low-rent

housing project shall be developed or constructed by a city until the majority of qualified voters approve such projects. The council has a draft measure which would allow the city to be involved in a project up to 100 units. We have no particular plans for any site at this time. However, there are, periodically, opportunities which come before the council that it might be able to take some action on either through the California Housing Finance Agency or the Federal Housing & Community Development Block Grant Program. If the council had the authority granted by this ballot measure, it might be able to take advantage of some future opportunity.

Another problem that we wish the people would consider is the requirement for 2:1 parking. Senior citizen housing projects, as a general rule, do not require 2:1 parking. Senior citizens usually do not need two parking spaces for their homes; this is an unwarranted expense. The council would like the people to consider the possibility of granting the authority to the planning and zoning commission to reduce the parking requirements for socially beneficial programs such as senior citizen housing, and, in this way, assist in reducing the cost of each unit. Again, the council has no specific project in mind.

We on the council would be very interested in your comments regarding these proposed programs. Basically, if these two ballot measures are passed by the voters, the city would be given the authority to take affirmative action in the housing field. We are looking forward to hearing from you regarding these matters.

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BOURBON

	Reg. Price	Sale Price	Savings
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Old Crow, 1.75 Liters	14.43	11.99	2.44
Jim Beam, 1.75 Liters	13.95	11.49	2.46

SCOTCH

Chivas Regal, 750 ml.	14.69	12.99	1.70
Chivas Regal, Liters	19.18	15.99	3.19
Johnnie Walker Red, Liters	13.62	10.99	2.63

VODKA

Tovarisch, 1.75 Liters	9.99	7.99	2.00
Tovarisch, Liters	5.99	4.49	1.50
Tovarisch, 750 ml.	4.99	3.99	1.00

COGNAC

Courvoisier, V.S., 750 ml.	15.75	12.99	2.76
Courvoisier, V.S.O.P., 750 ml.	19.85	15.99	3.86

RUM

Joseph's Dark Rum, 1.75 Liters	11.99	8.99	3.00
Joseph's Light Rum, Liters	5.99	4.99	1.00

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Grand Marnier, 750 ml.	17.99	15.99	2.00
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Round Hill Fume Blanc 1979 Vintage	4.99	7.50	59.88
Geyser Peak Chardonnay	4.50	6.99	54.00
Cresta Blanca Chenin Blanc	2.49	3.99	29.88

NEWS BULLETIN

We are delighted to announce that the City of Berkeley has given us permission to open our wine-tasting room.

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Domaine Chandon Panache — \$4.95

Wine makers in Champagne, France often make small amounts of a delicious, peach-colored aperitif from fresh Pinot Noir juice at harvest time. Domaine Chandon's winemaker (who is also chef de caves of parent Moët & Chandon) diverted some Pinot Noir juice from sparkling wine production to a new Napa Valley aperitif call Panache.



WINES OF THE MONTH DECEMBER

1978 Bouquet Blanc, Ch.d'Auros (White Bordeaux)

1979 Beaujolais Villages, Pierre Ferraud (Red Beaujolais)

1979 Round Hill, Fume Blanc (Napa Valley)

1977 Havelock Gordon Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma)

Non-Vintage Cuvée Chevilot, White Burgundy (Core-d'Or)

1975 Lost Hills Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley)

WINES OF THE MONTH PRICE FOR ALL SIX (6) BOTTLES: \$23.50

CHAMPAGNE SPECIAL FOR DECEMBER

Seaview Brut Champagne of Australia \$8.95

Produced by the authentic méthode champenoise. We believe this compares favorably with Mumm's. A fine buy for the holidays. During December, there is a 15% discount on case purchases.

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Justino's Dry Madeira (Sercial) \$4.99

Justino's Medium Sweet Madeira (Bual) \$4.99

Findlater's don Lorenzo Cream Sherry \$3.99

Findlater's Dry Fly Medium Sherry \$3.99

Harvey's Bristol Cream Sherry 1/5 \$9.20

Sandeman Ruby Port \$6.50

NEW ARRIVALS

Concannon 1979 Rkatsiteli Livermore \$5.00

Cheviot N.V. White Burgundy Côte-d'Or \$3.49

Nepenthe 1976 Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma \$3.99

Bouquet Blanc 1978 White Bordeaux Chateau D'Auros \$3.99

Gavilan 1979 French Colombard Monterey \$4.50

Stone Creek Cellars \$4.50

1976 (Limited Release) Cabernet Sauvignon \$4.50

NEW ARRIVALS

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Bottle Price

Chateau St. Jean 1978 Chardonnay \$13.75

Chateau St. Jean 1979 Chardonnay 8.75

Chateau Montelena 1977 Chardonnay 10.00

Spring Mountain 1978 Cabernet Sauvignon 12.00

Spring Mountain 1979 Sauvignon Blanc 8.00

Edmeades 1977 Cabernet Sauvignon, Mendocino 4.99

Edmeades 1977 Rain Wine 6.25

Havelock Gordon 1977 Cabernet Sauvignon 7.99

Havelock Gordon 1979 Chardonnay 7.99

Havelock Gordon 1979 Chenin Blanc 4.99

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Both wines are attractively priced at \$3.25 per bottle and \$35.10 a case.

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA

We invite you to purchase JOSEPH'S Gift Certificate, a perfect gift for the wine buffs.

Mail bag

Albany seniors

Editor:

The Friends of Albany Seniors soon will complete the work to make application as a non-profit corporation. It will take a couple of months to get the necessary approval in Sacramento. When this is completed we plan to have a community meeting at which time memberships will be solicited in support of the organization.

Marquerite Carlson has suggested that the meeting

be brought in \$836.71 for the van fund. The community support in addition to the members who have concerns for local needs of our elderly population should begin to gather information on specific problems in Albany so that the broadest possible understanding can be brought to the meeting.

Volunteers participating

in the sale include the following and others whose names were not recorded. Many thanks to all of them: Kay Hartwig, Marietta Ferriera, Rolande Gussein, Odessa Shavers, Lawrence Lane, Robin Bell-Daite, Celia Shoemaker, Dario Meneketti, Kay Rabin, Meredith Berne, Betty Schinnerer, Isa-

bell Bettens, Velma Tie Turner, Ruth Annie Milian, Dorothy Evans, Carol Carlson, Mr. Marguerite Nick and the Albany School Ensemble. Waters of Bainbridge Restaurant and Middle student volunteers.

We appreciate the generosity of the those in wheelchairs unable to use the bus. A committee of Friends of Albany is examining transportation practices in order to bring the study to completion. CATHERINE J.

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BATHROOM TISSUE BONNIE HUBBARD 4-Roll 1-Ply 69¢	CABBAGE Napa 19
PURITAN OIL 48-oz. \$2.39	EGGS Naloid Large Dozen
LIQUID DETERGENT JOY 32-oz. \$1.59	PICKLES Farmans 22-oz.
PAPER TOWELS KLEENEX 59¢	BEER Michelob 12-oz. 6-Pak
INSTANT COFFEE MAXWELL HOUSE 10-oz. \$3.79	TUNA Bonnie Hubbard 6.5-oz.
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COOL WHIP Birds Eye 8-oz.	FABRIC SOFTENER Final Touch 24-oz.
APPLE PIES Lloyd J. Harris 26-oz.	OLIVE OIL Berrolit 3-Liter
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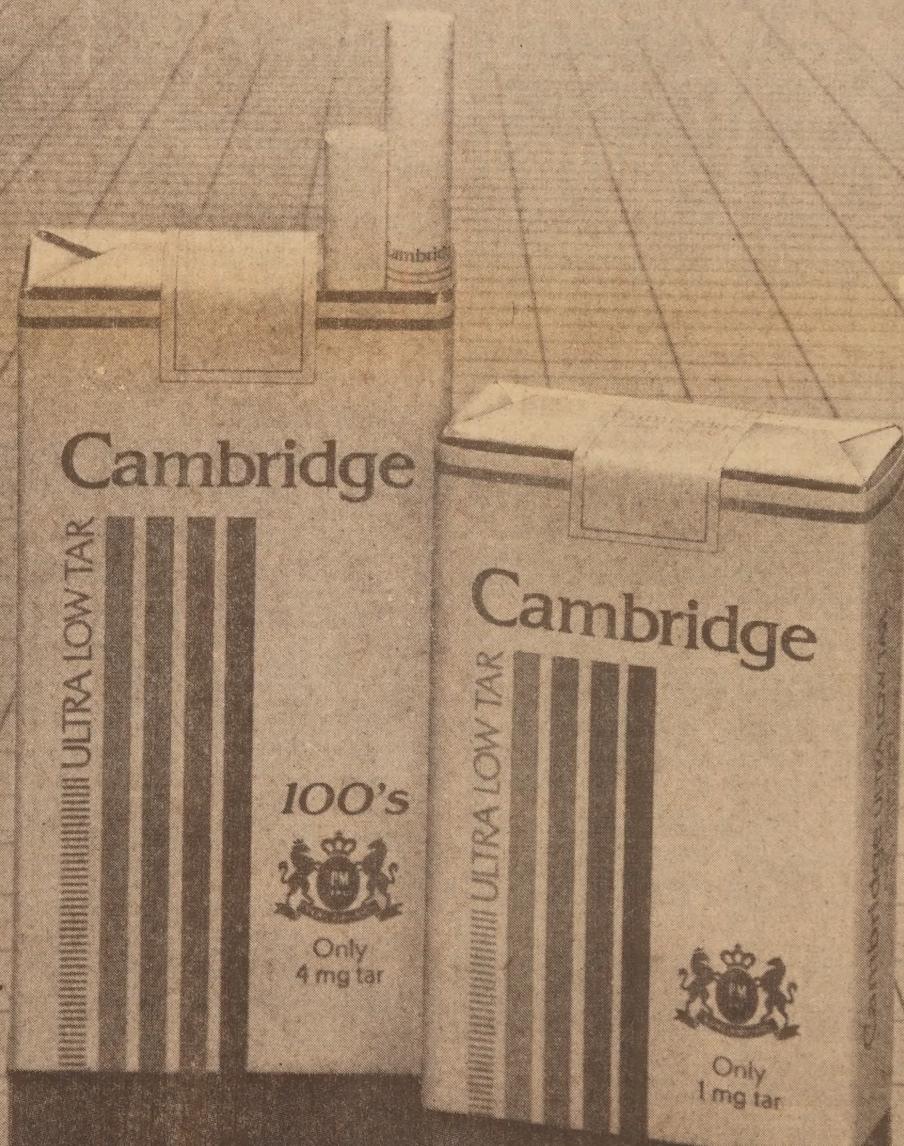
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BART manager Bernard urges public to be patient

By STEVE KANIGHER

BART general manager Keith Bernard couldn't have picked a worse time to talk about "What Makes BART Run."

His appearance at an Albany Rotary Club luncheon in Berkeley last week followed by one day a massive computer system failure which crippled BART for several hours.

The Rotarians wouldn't let him off easy. "I give up, what makes it run?" cracked one. "Is it running today?" mused another.

Bernard took it all in stride.

"When I took this job, I knew there were going to be days like yesterday (Dec. 8) but I didn't think in terms of always coming the next day to speak to a group of people," said Bernard, who lives in the Thousand Oaks district of north Berkeley.

Bernard's tenure as top man at BART has been everything but smooth since he took over in January, 1979. He has suffered through an extensive transbay tube fire and a lengthy BART labor strike, and is finally getting a chance to examine BART's operational problems. Despite constant gripes by the public about BART service, he said improvements are steadily being made.

"In 1975, BART was in a much worse state than it is today," Bernard said. "It was unusual when we had more than 50 percent of the cars on the line useable on any given day. And we had many more failures."

One of the problems, he said, was that employees were ill-prepared to deal with the internal maintenance of the system and often didn't have the spare parts to rectify the situation.

"In the last two or three years, we've been operating much more to industry standards," he noted. "Now, 85 to 90 percent of the cars are available each day. We have far fewer failures than we had back in 1975. In fact, our failures are at industry levels."



Keith Bernard

He admitted, however, that major problems still exist, particularly involving the central train control computer and BART's inability to take advantage of the passenger capacity the transit system was designed to handle.

"One of the big projects we're involved in is replacing that central train control computer, but until it's replaced we face worse and worse problems with it because it is getting older," Bernard said. "It never was reliable to begin with and it doesn't do the job in terms of carrying the trains on the system."

"We're only carrying half the people we should be carrying and we're only putting out one-half the capacity the system is possibly able to put out."

Bernard said BART cars by next spring will be equipped to run on manual control in the event the automatic controls aboard the cars fail. This is designed to keep the entire train running at a normal pace. Modifications are being made so that a problem car which has to be towed around without power by the rest of the train can be carried safely at normal speeds rather than at slower speeds as is done currently.

Bernard said BART is building another track through downtown Oakland, aimed at relieving the congestion in that part of the system where all the lines meet.

BART also is negotiating with Daly City officials in order to install additional tracks at the Daly City



Times Journal photo by Tim

BART general manager Keith Bernard admits the transit system still has major problems

station. The added tracks, Bernard said, would enable trains to move in and out of the station every two minutes instead of every four minutes.

"There's still four years to go and \$250 million to spend before we will fix the BART system to the point where it can deliver and perform at the reliability level that it should

perform in," he said.

About \$1.6 billion was spent to build the system, which has been operational for eight years. Half the operating costs are funded by BART fares. Most of the remainder comes from the one-half percent added to the state sales tax paid by Bay Area residents.

Bernard said he hopes a lot of the money required to fix

BART's problems comes from grants.

"To not take advantage of big, massive investment in completing mechanical and electrical things that weren't done would be folly," Bern

"It's just imperative that we realize on that huge investment get the most out of it and we

CHRISTMAS

(Continued from Page 1)

Music of a religious nature is acceptable, but not the singing of hymns that might be part of an actual service. Specific Christian tableaux (such as creches) are not appropriate, nor are audio-visual materials that are specifically religious. Lastly, children whose religious beliefs do not permit them to participate in a class program should be excused without comment.

It is this last point which particularly troubles some of the people who want to eliminate the religious emphasis of holiday programs.

"Schools have been the universal training ground," according to Robert Jacobvitz, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Greater East Bay, long involved in this issue. "We want to avoid programs that make kids feel different, that separate them from

other kids."

Thus Jacobvitz and others like him are not simply asking for equal time for Chanukah or other religious holidays.

"Many of our concerns come from Jewish parents, but we are concerned on behalf of all minorities," he said.

In order to increase the sensitivity of school districts, the council sends out a calendar each year showing the holidays and holy days of all the major religions.

"We are not opposed to the teaching of religion in a comparative religion class, in which students can appreciate the differences and similarities," he said.

The Albany Unified School District does not have a policy specifically on Christmas. Its policy on religion expresses its concern for the ethical development of its students: "the teaching of moral and spiritual values (is) one of primary and major importance for the home, the school, the church and many other

community agencies."

The board of education has gone on record as being "friendly toward the different religious beliefs" of its students, and it expressly forbids teachers from attempting to indoctrinate pupils with their personal sectarian beliefs.

The Albany guidelines also call for the schools to "guard religious freedom and tolerance," and to "teach objectively about religions without advocating or teaching any religious creed."

The board felt that omitting any mention of religion in the classroom was unrealistic.

"The fact that religious beliefs are controversial is not an adequate reason for excluding teaching about religion," the guidelines note.

On the other hand, maintaining a balance is a tricky business. In the words of Melinda Martin, director of the Albany children's center, "it bugs me as an educator to turn the entire curriculum over to one holiday."

Superintendent of Schools Stephen Goldstone agreed that the board policy was very general.

Religious holidays are part of our heritage and culture," he said. "We acknowledge them in our schools in a cultural but not a religious context."

Goldstone's own experience, growing up as one of the only Jewish children in his San Fernando Valley community, seems to contradict Jacobvitz' fear about the isolation of the minority child.

"We sang religious carols in school," Goldstone recalled, "and I never felt out of it."

He emphasized, however, that he was not emphasizing a similar practice in Albany, but did believe that it was important for children to be exposed to different cultural perspectives.

"Children don't learn about (different religious practices) any place else," he said. "It becomes a very educational experience in the classroom."

Music of a religious nature is acceptable, but not the singing of hymns that might be part of an actual service. Specific Christian tableaux (such as creches) are not appropriate, nor are audio-visual materials that are specifically religious. Lastly, children whose religious beliefs do not permit them to participate in a class program should be excused without comment.

It is this last point which particularly troubles some of the people who want to eliminate the religious emphasis of holiday programs.

"Schools have been the universal training ground," according to Robert Jacobvitz, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Greater East Bay, long involved in this issue. "We want to avoid programs that make kids feel different, that separate them from

Calendar

EL CERRITO

Committee on Aging — Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 3:30 p.m. in the council chambers, 10890 San Pablo Ave.

Design Review Board — Tuesday, Dec. 23, at 7:45 p.m. in the council chambers.

ALBANY

Park & Recreation Commission — Thursday, Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room, 1000 San Pablo Ave.

City Council — Has been cancelled for Mondays, Dec. 22 and 29.

Robber hits diner

EL CERRITO — A black man in this early 20's got away with an undisclosed amount of cash from Doggie Diner, 10000 block of San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, on Saturday, Dec. 6, at 3:43 a.m.

The suspect, who produced a revolver, was described as 5'5", 160 pounds, wearing a blue derby jacket and black ski mask.

City Council — Has been cancelled for Mondays, Dec. 22 and 29.

SHOPPING

(Continued from Page 1)

the El Cerrito Plaza appear to be home entertainment and energy-related items. People are staying home more often, Foley said, and are buying more things like electric woks for cooking and television video tape players. Energy-related bestsellers include indoor quartz heaters, which use infra-red rays to heat objects directly (like people) instead of the air, and down jackets and blankets. Sweaters also are selling well, she added.

Manager Jim Wells of Woolworth's in the El Cerrito Plaza said the most popular items at this store are low-price glassware and dacron body warmers made like sleeping bags.

Motocross bikes for children and accessories such as racks, lights and leg bands are moving well at Albany Spoke & Wheel.

Customers seem to be ignoring large furniture this Christmas but are buying smaller decorative ob-

jects like lamps, framed pictures, flower arrangements and statuary pieces, according to Bill Scinto, manager of Travalini Furniture Co. in El Cerrito.

Mary & Joe's Sporting Goods manager employee Pat Neylon said professional football jerseys are selling well at the Albany store but business generally has been slow. Normally, he said, popular holiday purchases include bowling balls and bags, warm-up suits and running shoes.

Chaz Hart, assistant manager of the Kit & Caboodle hobby shop in Albany said trains are the number one seller, followed by radio-controlled airplanes. Start-up hobby kits for children are also popular now, he said.

A Thousand Oaks Hardware employee said business is also slow in his store, but noted that house paints and sundry supplies are the bestsellers.

Walden Book Store in El Cerrito is

selling a lot of children's Christmas books, according to assistant manager Connie Mueller. Pictorial books and books costing more than \$30 are also popular now, she said.

Designer jeans for all ages and light or pastel-colored pull-over sweaters for women are the hottest selling items at Miller's Outpost in the El Cerrito Plaza, according to one employee.

Dave Capeluto, owner of American Florist in Albany, said pointsettias are the most popular flowers during the holiday season. He said decorated center pieces also are in high demand.

At Jeffrey's Toys in the El Cerrito Plaza, the Christmas rush began early, according to assistant manager Sandy Reeves. The store, she said, is already running out of many popular toys. Among the most popular items are dolls, electronic gadgets, anything to do with "Star Wars," and anything that's advertised on television.

The projected capacity of the recycling center is 100 tons a day or 3,000 tons a month. By comparison, E.Cology has averaged 402 tons a month over the past nine months.

Witherell has proposed that reusable 30-gallon nylon bags, which snap or zipper shut, be used by participating residents for newspapers, glass and tin. Witherell said he hopes at least half of the 66,000 living units in west county and Albany participate.

The nylon bags would be picked up at curbside and the remainder of the garbage would be picked up as well, all at the same time. A clean nylon bag would be left with each resident who leaves a full bag on the curb.

Before the nylon bag idea would be used on a regional basis, Witherell said 100 bags would be used on a trial basis by E.Cology during curbside pickup in El Cerrito.

The refuse, according to the proposal, would be collected by either the East Bay Sanitary Co., Bay View Refuse Inc. or Richmond Sanitary Service, which currently do business in west county. The refuse would be delivered to the energy conversion plant site, where the non-recyclable materials would be separated from the nylon bags. The refuse would go through energy conversion and the latter through recycling.

The nylon bag, which still is only a concept, would be designed in such a way so that when it is dumped by the garbage truck, it will be removed from the other refuse by overhead conveyor hooks and emptied into a material separation conveyor unit for separation prior to processing.

"There is no evidence or any possible basis to support your proposed finding that redevelopment in this area is necessary for the effective redevelopment of the project area," he said.

He said there was no basis for including the cemetery land in the redevelopment plan since the city deemed it "not to be a blighted area."

"The city should have done an economical feasibility study before depriving the owner of some of his rights," he said.

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"There is no evidence or any possible basis to support your proposed finding that redevelopment in this area is necessary for the effective redevelopment of the project area," he said.

Some citizens have complained about possible traffic problems created by construction of dense housing in their neighborhood.

According to Witherell, those who receive rebates, therefore, would be reducing their rates.

Overall, Witherell said the bag process would be used for the recycling companies as well as individuals.

"Basically, we would take the material to our site and there is some cost of getting the garbage truck to the bag process," Witherell said.

He noted, though, that the costs that may go up with curbside pickup would be offset by the savings the garbage truck would realize by dumping less money than they are paying at landfill sites. The bag would cost \$4 to \$6 a ton to the local landfill sites, he said.

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El Cerrito OKs recycling center

By ANDREW ROSS

EL CERRITO — A resolution supporting the proposed \$46-million regional recycling center has been unanimously adopted by the city council.

Without discussion, the council Monday night routinely approved the resolution authorizing the city, in conjunction with other West Contra Costa communities, to seek \$300,000 in state funds for preliminary work on the project.

Some of the money, for example,

would be used for the experimental development of a heavy-duty, recyclable plastic bag.

Hearings are currently under way to select a site for the new center.

The project eventually may replace El Cerrito's E.Cology program, which processes an average of 500 tons of garbage each month.

The El Cerrito center at the end of Schmidt Lane is operating at capacity and must be relocated within three years, according to city offi-

cials.

The newly proposed regional center is expected to recycle 3,000 tons of glass, paper and other materials, helping alleviate a shortage of landfill space in west Contra Costa County.

Project consultants estimate that a highly developed recycling system supported by 70 percent of the county's homes could divert about 20 percent of wastes from landfill sites in Richmond, Martinez and Pittsburg.

In a two-page letter delivered to the council Monday night, Burton complained that the cemetery property had been "singled out" for redevelopment.

The attorney listed five specific objections. He said the city's redevelopment plan lacks a "neighborhood impact report" and does not indicate how the Colusa Street project would be financed.

"The city should have done an economical feasibility study before depriving the owner of some of his rights," he said.

He said there was no basis for including the cemetery land in the redevelopment plan since the city deemed it "not to be a blighted area."

"There is no evidence or any possible basis to support your proposed finding that redevelopment in this area is necessary for the effective redevelopment of the project area," he said.

Rent panel chief arrested

Sage paints self into trouble

Barbara Bryant, 31, of 881 Costa St., Berkeley.

Both women were cited for malicious mischief, a misdemeanor, and released a few hours later.

Neither Ms. Sage nor Berke-

ley City Manager Wise Allen could be reached for comment.

Allen hired Ms. Sage in early September to be director of staff for the rent board. Before then, she was assistant director of the Legal Services Department of the California Bar Association.

She is a graduate of UC-Berkeley and Boalt Hall School of Law.

Arrested with Ms. Sage was

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Students get a capital close-up

By ROBERTA ALEXANDER

ALBANY — Eighteen Albany High School students had a chance to get a close-up view of government last month, when they spent a week in Washington, D.C. The students joined 136 other Bay Area students in a Project Close-Up examination of government, a program each year brings together 14,000 high schoolers from over the country to study together in the nation's capital.

According to Albany High School senior Dominique Rouzier, she and her fellow students attended seminars practically every day.

"We must have spent 50 percent of our time on Capitol Hill," she said.

What turned out to be equally educational was the chance to room with students from other parts of the country.

"It was exciting to be with them, because they tend to be more conservative (than I am) and it gave me a sense of what it's like to be in that situation," Rouzier said.

She and other students reported a number of spirited discussions with the eastern students on issues like religion and abortion. They also told each other about local issues; the California students talked about the Periphs Canal and learned about the politics of road-building in Memphis.

Julianna Valtr liked the fact that there were so many different viewpoints being expressed.

"I suppose I'm a moderate," she said. "I agree on some things and not others, and just listening to what everyone had to say made everyone stop and think."

For Stacy Martin, the highlight of the week was the day, in which she visited the Smithsonian Institute.

"I'd never been in weather that cold before," said Martin, who had in fact never been out of California before.

Usually local Close-Up students spend some time with Congressman Ron Dellums, but he was unavailable this trip. Instead they visited with Congressman George Miller. After their private session with him, they enjoyed to listen to him deliver a speech about a bill on roadways.

"He was an excellent speaker," Martin recalled. "We just sat there for 20 minutes. Normally nobody listens to anyone, people just come in to vote, but everyone was listening to him."

All the students reported an increased interest in government as a result of the trip.

"Washington didn't seem really real before," Rouzier said. "But now I can read the paper and really understand what it's talking about and relate to it."

Martin agreed: "it's much more interesting than reading it in a book. I learn it better this way."

"Now that I've done this, I want to know more about Valtr said.

She said that she had taken advantage of the sojourn to Georgetown University, which she had been applying to. Now she is sure she wants to stay there, and she also plans to do volunteer political work as a way of learning more about the workings of government.

"I got the sense that there's maybe something that can be done, to save things," Martin said. "You hear so much about how government is going to pieces, but you feel you can still do something."

Kids' holiday program set

Community Services to Spanish Speaking Organizations and the University of California Cooperative Extension's Expanded Nutrition Education program are planning an annual Christmas program for underprivileged children in the North Bay.

The event will be held Friday, Dec. 23, at the

Nevin Community Center, 598 Nevin Ave., Richmond, from 2 to 6 p.m.

A spokesperson for the event said the program hopes to serve 150 families and will include nutritional snacks, entertainment, Christmas stockings, a puppet show, live Nativity scene, pinatas and Santa Claus.

For more information, call 232-6050 or 524-7502.



The Close-Up contingent visited the Smithsonian Institution

For Rouzier, the trip strengthened her resolve to have a double major when she attends college next year — natural resources and government.

"It may be possible for some of us to get in there in the future and make some decisions," she said.

Other Albany students who attended were Cathy Chamberlain, Steve Davis, Melissa Donnell, Sari Goldman, Danny Kato, Cheryl McMeans, David Morgan, Cynthia Nishioka, Irene Okimoto, Peter Rios, Heather Shelton, Chris Shepherd, Jeff Stolte, Debora Tamanaha and Noga Wizansky.

It cost each student \$723 to attend Close-Up, which meant that most of the students engaged in a lot of fund-raising for months before the trip. The board of education provided the equivalent of one scholarship, which was split between Valtr and Rouzier. The Close-Up Foundation also provided a scholarship, which went to Martin.

According to government teacher and Close-Up coordinator Robert Allegro, fund-raising remains a major concern for future trips. This year's trip depleted the school's scholarship fund and he is seeking donations to replenish it. Tax-deductible contributions, made out to the Close-Up Foundation, should be sent to Allegro in care of the high school (603 Key Route Blvd.).

He also expressed the group's appreciation to the local merchants who contributed toward expenses: Carl N. Swenson Co., Coleman Insurance, Diablo Associates, Fugetsu, Gersh Photo Heads, Hurd Lumber, I'm a Gift, Kaiser Engineers, Kuwada Realty, Larry Seidel Chevrolet, Locators, Max's Liquor, Michael's Bottles Shop, Nehi Insurance, Narsi's, Oaks Jewelers, Olympic Savings and Loan, Pacific Telephone, Richard's Jewelers, Svensson Automotive, Upward Bound, Val, Strong and Svensson Hoppe Realty.

For more information, call 232-6050 or 524-7502.

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Motown's Mary Wells brings hits to Albany

By STEVE KANIGHER

ALBANY — It was like a walk down Memory Lane for those in their 30's and late 20's who ventured into Erie's Solano Club in Albany on a recent Sunday night.

They nodded their heads up and down and tapped their feet as Mary Wells, ably supported by a harp section and six-piece band, offered a rendition of "My Guy," her 1964 hit that soared towards the top of the charts.

Working from a small stage in the back of the club, Wells reached back to the early 1960's for several tunes she recorded for Motown, the black record label from Detroit which also introduced the Supremes, Stevie Wonder and Marvin Gaye.

The two performances Wells gave at Erie's represented part of a month-long California tour which has brought her out of "semi-retirement" and may launch the rebirth of her career.

In an interview between sets, Wells said her future plans include a record deal, possible star role in a movie and publication of a book on her life story.

All this was made possible, she said, because her children, aged 12, 11 and 5, decided they could get along without her for short periods of time.

"Since they kind of threw me out, I guess I'll go ahead and try singing again," said Wells, who lives with her husband and three children in Beverly Hills.

A Detroit native, Wells was raised in a church-going family that was constantly exposed to gospel music. Her idols included Etta James and Sam Cooke.

Her big break occurred in high school when she was introduced to Motown

record company president Berry Gordy by the boyfriend of one of her classmates. At the time, Gordy's main label, Tamla, included such stars as Smokey Robinson and the Miracles.

"I really went over there to sell a song, 'Bye, Bye Baby,' to maybe Jackie Wilson or somebody like that," Wells said. "And then Berry heard my voice and said that he wanted me to record."

"I didn't know I was going to record this song. I told him I was still a kid. But I started recording and I just kept going."

She was so good, in fact, that Gordy made her the first artist to record on the Motown label. But she wasn't exactly pleased by this.

"I wanted to be on Tamla because Tamla was the biggest label in Detroit," Wells said. "So when they said we were going to put me on a new label I felt terrible."

"I thought I was getting a bad deal because all these other people I was hearing on the radio, even though it was local, was on Tamla. I felt really hurt about that."

Wells became so popular that by 1964 Motown claimed she had "more two-sided hits than anyone else in the entire recording industry." With this distinction came the honor of being the opening act for the Beatles' first tour in the United States.

"After I came out on Motown, my records took off faster than those on Tamla, which was surprising because we didn't have the money to promote," Wells stated. "Motown became so huge with just me on it. Then they started bringing the other people over to the Motown label. It was no Tamla no



Mary Wells recently appeared at Erie's Solano Club in Albany

more. I was Motown. I think that I helped build that company pretty damn well."

Wells, in fact, played a key role in advancing the careers of many Motown artists. A young trio named the Primettes served as backup vocalists for Wells in studio sessions where they were paid \$2.50 each. They later became the Supremes, a group which has sold more than 50 million records.

She was the first of three female vocalists who recorded hit-making duets with Marvin Gaye. Two of those songs included "Once Upon A Time" and "What's The Matter With You Baby."

According to an anthology of Martha Reeves and the Vandellas, Reeves, once a secretary for Motown, was invited to the recording studio to fill in for Wells. The song she recorded later turned out to be a hit and she was well on her own way.

Reeves, is scheduled to appear with the Vandellas at Erie's on Sunday, Dec. 28.

Despite all her success at Motown, Wells said she got a "bad deal." Though she refused to elaborate she hinted that it may have something to do with the collection of royalties from record sales.

Wells said, though, that she is thankful to Motown for giving her the chance to record.

"It was some great years for me," she said. "If I hadn't recorded on Motown, maybe I never would have recorded."

"I never had a flop record. It might not have been number one, but I've always had chart records. I'm thankful for that. There's a lot of people who never get a record on the charts. Shoo, it's a hard business."

After she left Motown in 1964, Wells released a handful of albums on other labels which she said broke into the top 100 on the pop charts and top 20 on the rhythm and blues list. But she dropped out of the recording industry in 1975 because of a bitter experience.

"The production company I was recording with made bad vibes with the recording company (Warner Bros.) and they dropped the record," she said. "After that I was kind of disappointed, but I wasn't really upset as long as I had my children."

But her children urged her to get back into recording and she's at it again.

She said that a major record company plans to release her new album as early as March. She added that the album will contain a mixture of the old "Motown sound" and some new material, including songs she wrote.

Wells also said she has been approached by Nashville moviemakers to star in a film about gangsters involved in the record industry and efforts to kick them out. But she has had no prior acting experience.

"I think the average entertainer is a professional actor or actress anyway," she countered. "That's what I wanted to be before I was an entertainer. I wanted to be an actress. But I

found out they starve a lot."

It seems that her ultimate goal is to write her autobiography and perhaps have it appear on the silver screen.

"Right now, I would just like to record and I would like for people to know the changes I went through in my life," Wells said. "I would like to see my life story out before I die. I wouldn't want to die and not see it because I think I've been through a hell of a lot of changes."

For more information or to register call Sandy Trachtenberg, program director at the J.C.C., 848-0237.

The program is structured so that a group leader and two parents are with the children at all times. The program includes development of large and small motor skills, story time, dress-up and water play.

For more information or to register call Sandy Trachtenberg, program director at the J.C.C., 848-0237.

County offers training for testing blood

If you have hypertension or have a close friend or relative who does, you can learn how to take blood pressure measurements using the most accurate equipment available. The Alameda County Hypertension Council and the Alameda County High Blood Pressure Control Program are sponsoring a training session to teach this skill. Individuals who complete this eight-hour training session will be able to use the mercury sphygmomanometer instrument to measure blood pressure.

The training will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13, at Providence Hospital in Oakland. The training is free. To register for the training, call 568-1650.

Senior centers

The Albany Senior Center is at 646 Main Street, Albany, 644-8500. Hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. The center will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

The newly elected officers of the Albany Senior Center are Eleanor Bele, president; Josephine Gosselin, vice-president; Robert McLean, secretary; and Evelyn Langer, treasurer.

They will be installed for the year at the meeting on Thursday, Jan. 8. All seniors of the center are invited.

Special Events

Blood pressure clinic, Monday Dec. 22, 1-3 p.m. Reservations are being taken for three special day eating events: Dec. 24: Christmas social hour dinner at 3 p.m.; Dec. 28: potluck dinner, Sunday at 1 p.m.; Dec. 31: New Year's Eve, social hour and p.m.

Fall Classes

Holiday Schedule: Tuesdays — folk and square dancing basics, 50¢ per class.

Fridays — community service group, 12-3 p.m.

Saturdays — folk dancing, 2-4 p.m. Continuing Events

Bingo, Thursday and Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Friday, 12:15 p.m.; Singalong, Thursday, 11:30 a.m.

Cards and conversation, Thursday, noon-5 p.m.; urday, noon-4 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m.

Mini-market for seniors only is held Thursday, Dec. 25 Jan. 1.

The "Senior Prom" ballroom dance is held on a multi-purpose room at Marin School every Saturday from 8 to 11 p.m. To brush up or learn new steps, call 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$1.50 (includes refreshments). Band — Carmen Owens on the piano-organ. Los Angeles on drums and Harry Walker, saxophone. Myrna and Marietta Ferriera, hostess.

Taxi-Van Script

Coupon books for both taxi and accessible van for Albany available at the center for residents \$4 per book.

(Continued on Page 11)



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Clubs

ALBANY

American Legion
The regular post meeting will be Friday, Dec. 19 at 8 p.m.

Eastern Star

Albany Chapter 550

meets Dec. 19 at 8 p.m. in

El Cerrito Masonic Temple,

620 Stockton, El Cerrito.

Vestal Spicer, worthy

and Peter Noe, worthy

patron, will preside

over the business meeting

to be followed by the annual

Christmas party. Visitors

were welcome.

Soroptimists

The soroptimists Interna-

tional of Albany will

meet Wednesday, Dec.

19, at noon, at their lun-

cheon meeting at Kirby's,

El Cerrito Station. Marnie

Mark is the guest speaker

and she will speak on "Jaz-

zercise."

Doris Holland is chair of

the meeting. The next

meeting will be held Jan.

NARFE

Albany Branch # 1282 of

NARFE will hold its

Christmas party at

Spenger's Fish

Grotto, 4th

University Avenue,

Berkeley, on December

19. No-host cocktail hour

followed by lunch at

4 p.m. Prizes and enter-

tainment: Galen Schwab

and his accompanist, Judy

Sejima.

Albany Rotary

Albany Rotary Club

meets Tuesday at 12:30

at Spenger's Fish

Grotto in Berkeley.

Albany Lions

Albany Lions Club meets

Thursday at 7 p.m. at

Giby's in El Cerrito

Town.

Bridge Club

The club meets at 12 p.m.

on Mondays and Thursdays

at the University Village

Community Center, 1123 8th

St. For more information

call 22-6869.

Scrabble

Albany Scrabble Players

Club No. 41 meets each

Wednesday 12:45 to 5 p.m. at

Carmel Ave. All persons

of age or older are invited

to participate free in

the games of one hour

each. Persons are requested

to bring their own game

and three egg timers. Call

33675 for reservations.

Toastmistress

The USDA Toastmistress

Club meets the first and

third Wednesdays of each

month at noon in the third

floor conference room at

the U.S. Department of

Agriculture building, 800

Market St.

Alta Bates

association

seeks furniture

The Alta Bates Showcase

is inviting donations of fur-

iture. All kinds of house-

hold wares and bric-a-brac

are in demand, including

hanging shelves, end

tables and other small

items. There have also

been many requests for

small drawer chests.

Expansion of the furni-

ture stock has been made

possible by the loan of two

carby storage facilities.

The Showcase is the new

name operated by the Alta

Bates Foundation Associa-

tion at 8020 College Ave.,

Berkeley, just south of the

Alameda Avenue inter-

section. Its proceeds go for

the benefit of the hospital,

particularly the Burn Cen-

Pickup service is avail-

able, especially for large

furniture items which

others might not be able to

deliver. To make arrange-

ments, call the Showcase at

33-1527.

WWII airmen

seek colleagues

The 303rd Bomb

Group(H) Association

is looking for all World War II

aircrew and sup-

port) who served with the

303rd Bomb Group(H) in

Wales, England, from

1942 to 1945.

The purpose of the asso-

ciation is to assist in con-

necting former friends, re-

ceiving news of the 303rd

and maintaining an active

status of the

association.

The association said that

many of the former

303rders have not

or are aware of the

formation of the 303rd,

and may be living in this

area.

Former members of the

group are asked to contact

John Vieira, 6400 Park

Hollywood, Fla. 33024,

for further information.

Other former 8th Air

Force members from WWII

may write to 8th Air Force

Meeting House, 3911 NW

13th Terrace, Opa Locka,

Fla. 33055.

Buchanan Street, Albany. The club was chartered by a group of USDA employees but anyone is welcome to join.

Visitors are invited to call Rita Millard or Brenda Sweeney at 486-3736. Ample parking is available.

EL CERRITO

Bridge Club The Club meets Monday, at 7:30 p.m. and Tuesdays, at 11 a.m., at El Cerrito Community Center, 7001 Moes Lane. For information call 232-6689.

Community Bridge Club The club meets Tuesdays, at 7:30 p.m. and

with AAUW members and friends.

The meeting will also feature holiday music and a Christmas carol sing-along. Traditional Christmas cookies are being made for the meeting by the branch's daytime gourmet group.

This meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be held at the home of Penny Foster, 25 Dias Court, El Sobrante.

Native Daughters Hotel Mac, Point Richmond, will be the setting for the annual Christmas party of CCO of West Berkeley, on December 20 at 10 a.m. in Marian Hall, Jefferson and Addison Streets, Berkeley. Sister Mary Ambrose is in charge of the CCO program.

Valarian Millet is chair and will be assisted by

Members will bring gifts for the convalescent homes. Chairing the dinner is Janice Braga and co-chair is Virginia Stanford.

Kiwansis

The Albany El Cerrito Kiwanis Club meets Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. at Carrow's Restaurant, 6120 Potrero Ave., El Cerrito.

Rotary El Cerrito Rotary meets at 12:15 p.m. at Cerrito City Club, 1600 Kearney.

Catholic Daughters

Court Berkeley # 1049, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, will play Santa Claus to children of the CCO of West Berkeley, on December 20 at 10 a.m. in Marian Hall, Jefferson and Addison Streets, Berkeley.

Sister Mary Ambrose is in charge of the CCO program.

Valarian Millet is chair and will be assisted by

other members of the section on Dec. 19 at 1 p.m. in the Arlington Community Church social hall.

THOUSAND OAKS Northbrae Women On Wednesday Dec. 17 at 11:30 a.m., the club will hold its past presidents Christmas brunch. Following the meal a program of Christmas music and story will be presented by Mrs. Merlin Drucquer and Mrs. Harold Stone. Special decorations are by Mrs. Edward Chandler. Traditional gift exchange with gifts to cost \$1. Please remember to put your name inside.

EAST BAY Dance Class The Richmond-San Pablo Folk Dances meet every Wednesday evening from 8 to 12 at the Dover School Auditorium, 1st and market in San Pablo. Max and June Horn, instructors.

KENSINGTON Arlington Women Bernice Foley, an Arlington Women's Club member, will entertain the club's books and world affairs

The California Writers Club will meet Saturday Dec. 20 at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Duran Ave. Social hour is 5 p.m., dinner at 6.

Guest speaker is poet Charles Entrekkin.

Berkeley City Club

A special holiday dinner for members who reside in the club will be held Wednesday, Dec. 17. After dinner coffee will be served.

The annual children's Christmas party will be Sunday, Dec. 21, at 11 a.m. in the auditorium.

A buffet luncheon will be served. Popo the Clown and Santa Claus will add to the fun.

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SEBASTIANI

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MT. Chablis

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(At Acton)

1414 University Ave.

Police beat

EL CERRITO
Edward Morocco, 46, 300 block of Marina, Richmond, was arrested by El Cerrito police on Friday, Dec. 5, for drug prescription forgery. He was scheduled to attend Bay Municipal Court last Monday for a plea hearing.

Charles Jackson, 34, 1500 block of 4th, Richmond, and Grady Stephens, 38, 1500 block of Truman, Richmond, were arrested by El Cerrito police on Sunday, Dec. 7, for credit card forgery.

Two juveniles were ar-

rested by El Cerrito police on Tuesday, Dec. 9, and Wednesday, Dec. 10, for separate burglaries.

A bike as reported stolen from the El Cerrito Plaza on Sunday, Dec. 7.

Mary Seban of Rodeo re-

ported on Sunday, Dec. 7, that the loss of a ring at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7000 block of Moeser.

Gloria Brewer, 3300 block of Carlson, El Cerrito, reported on Friday, Dec. 5, the loss of two televisions, end tables, a lamp and statue worth a total of \$595.

Golden Jersey Dairy, 11000 block of San Pablo, El Cerrito, reported on Sunday, Dec. 7, the loss of cash, cigarettes, meat, candy, soda, and food staps worth a total of \$1,835.

Trevino's Restaurant, 11700 block of San Pablo, El Cerrito, reported on Tues-

day, Dec. 9, the loss of two Spanish guitars worth a total of \$425.

Jerome Taylor of Berkeley reported on Tuesday, Dec. 9, the theft of a briefcase worth \$45 from his car, parked in Pastime Hardware's parking lot on the 10000 block of San Pablo, El Cerrito.

Robert Cheong, 7400 block of Errol, Tom Tsukiyama, 700 block of Colusa, and Janie Kao, 700 block of Balra, all of El Cerrito, reported on Tuesday, Dec. 9, the theft of their car stereo decks. Police say the cases may be connected with each other.

ALBANY

William Broom, 18, 200 block of Edwards, Fairfield, and two juveniles, were arrested by Albany police on Friday, Dec. 5, on two counts of burglary.

A juvenile was arrested by Albany police on Monday, Dec. 8, for possession of a stolen vehicle.

Gregory Ross, 18, 2200 block of Cutting, Richmond, and Darryl Wil-

liams, 19, 4200 block of W. 63rd, Los Angeles, were arrested by Albany police on Thursday, Dec. 11, for strongarm robbery.

Morgan Spicer, 1000 block of Curtis, Albany, reported on Friday, Dec. 5, the theft of a CB radio antenna from his car.

Eloa Hutt, 800 block of MacArthur, Oakland, was arrested by Albany police on Friday, Dec. 5, on a variety of warrants, including assault with a deadly weapon.

Kenneth Davis, 22, 200 block of Valencia, Fresno, and Brian Davis, 24, 1200 block of Klette, Fresno, were arrested by Albany police on Monday, Dec. 8, for possession of a handgun and switchblade.

A juvenile was arrested by Albany police on Monday, Dec. 8, for possession of a stolen vehicle.

Gabriele Bay, 1000 block of Talbot, Albany, reported on Wednesday, Dec. 10, the loss of a red 1979 Motobecane moped worth \$500.

Dee Cunningham of nut Creek reported Tuesday, Dec. 9, the loss of \$2,600 worth of miscellaneous items from a residence on the 700 block of 1st

A black 10-speed bicycle was reported stolen front of Albany police on Thursday, Dec. 11.

Tracie Nunn, 1100 block of San Pablo, Albany, reported on Monday, Dec. 11, the loss of an orange moped worth \$300.

A yellow 10-speed bicycle was reported stolen from the 1100 block of San Pablo, Albany, on Monday, Dec. 11.

Doe Cunningham of nut Creek reported Tuesday, Dec. 9, the loss of \$2,600 worth of miscellaneous items from a residence on the 700 block of 1st

Yu-Chia Yao, 1000 block of Ordway, Albany, reported on Tuesday, Dec. 11, the loss of a 1979 red Motobecane moped worth \$500.

Science notebook

Condor goes solo

A California condor chick has made its first solo flight, according to biologists from the Condor Research Center in Ventura.

The chick's first sustained flight of several hundred feet last month was witnessed by Bruce Barbour of the joint U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - National Audubon Society research staff. The bird was 175 days old.

On the following day, according to John Borneman of the center staff, the chick took its second flight - this to the cliff tops above the southern California nest site.

Borneman reported that for the past several weeks, the young condor has been walking back and forth in front of the nest and has made a few tentative 20-foot-long flights.

The fledgling now enters what Borneman described as one of the most hazardous periods of its life as it moves from the protection of the nest canyon.

Young condors are extremely curious and exhibit little fear of man. They are also rather clumsy fliers during the first few months away from the nest site. The young condor may be dependent on its parents for food for another eight or nine months.

"This is the first time," Borneman said, "that a condor nestling has been observed daily from the approximate day the egg was laid to the first day of fledging."

Biologists from the center intend to keep the con-

Exhibit views West Coast merchandising

An exhibition of product trademark labels entitled "201 California Consumer Products of the 19th Century" is now open in the History Special Gallery at the Oakland Museum.

The exhibition, which is drawn from the collection of the California State Archives, will remain on view through Feb. 1.

For further information, call 273-3842. The Oakland Museum is located at 10th and Oak Streets, near the Lake Merritt BART station.

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Obituaries

Rose Pasteris

EL CERRITO - Funeral services for Rose Ciochetto Pasteris, an area resident for 50 years, were arranged by Schmidt & Dixon (Richmond) Funeral Home.

A native of Pavone Canavese, Italy, Mrs. Pasteris lived in El Cerrito and died Dec. 13 at Richmond Hospital. She was 90.

Survivors include her son, John Ciochetto of El Cerrito; her daughter, Frances Gehrig of Tracy; two sisters, Domenica Bevolo and Lena Quilico, both of Italy; her brother, Frank Bevolo of Italy; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Irene Pilote

ALBANY - Services for Irene Pilote, a longtime local resident and homemaker, were arranged by Civic Center Chapel of Wilson & Kratzer Mortuaries.

A native of Mt. Vernon, Wash., Mrs. Pilote lived in Albany and died Dec. 14 in a Pinole hospital. She was 68.

She was a member of the St. John The Baptist Catholic Church.

Survivors include her husband, Donald of Albany; and her daughter, Marilyn Lenk of Walnut Creek.

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Pot luck

with Olga Bier



Perhaps one of the most thoughtful gifts that can be given is the gift of Time.

When the time is in the form of something from your kitchen, it is a two-fold gift. First, it presents the receiver with an offering that can be enjoyed without preparation. Secondly, it says, "I took some time in my busy day to make something just for you." I never fail to be deeply touched by a handmade gift because I know only too well how short a day can be.

A sweet reminder

From a nutritional point of view, it is a bit sad to see so many goodies for the holiday season that are based on sweets. Surely, sugar must not be excluded from the diet as we know we do need it for energy and to make some foods palatable. But the reminder we all must heed is that sweet food must never substitute for the well-balanced meal. With our appetites satisfied on cakes and cookies, we lose our desire for the necessary fruits and vegetables, cheeses and breads. But you already know the Basic Four foods our bodies require every day. Party

Safety first

Shoplifting

By
GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN
Attorney General
State of California

Shoplifting is becoming a more serious problem everyday and is especially prevalent during holiday shopping periods. Shoplifters help drive prices up, adding to the inflationary spiral. It is everyone's business to help apprehend these criminals.

Amateur shoplifters often call attention to themselves by a nervous attitude and aimless wandering. The professional's movements, however, are deliberate and unhurried. They know what they are after and how to get it.

The pros often wear special pants or other clothing under dresses or coats or use shopping bags, open-top boots, umbrellas or dummy packages as containers for stolen merchandise.

Potential shoplifters may be deterred by highly visible, repeated and public warnings that they will be prosecuted by most stores and all law enforcement agencies.

Such warnings should include the admonition that this means they may be arrested, handcuffed, taken to jail, fingerprinted, pho-

tographed, spend a night in jail, charged and prosecuted. A second conviction may result in a felony conviction and a possible state prison term.

The role of parents is especially important both to society and to themselves. According to Penal Code section 490.5, parents are financially responsible for the thefts of their emancipated children (one under 18 years of age, living at home and supported financially by his/her parents).

Thus, parents are well advised to watch for new things in the house, such as stereos, radios, jewelry, clothes or toys. If your son or daughter has a problem, confront it. Unchecked thievery is not likely to cure itself. It may lead to more crime and much misery.

All shopkeepers should learn about shoplifting prevention from either the state's Crime Prevention Center or from their local law enforcement agency's crime prevention unit.

During the holiday season, the following should be kept in mind by shop-

keepers and/or shoppers alike:

- Beware of price tag substitution.
- Sales slips discarded by customers should be collected and destroyed (shoplifters often use old receipts as false evidence of purchase).
- Wait on all customers promptly. Shoplifters do not need or want the attention of sales staff.
- Be especially alert to and observant of juveniles who enter the store in groups and then separate.
- Shoplifters should lock any purchase in trunk of their car — out of sight, out of mind.
- Small articles may be palmed and carried out of the store in the hand.
- Special clothing with pockets and hooks can conceal items.

The public must learn to watch for shoplifting and not hesitate to report thefts to store managers. By such acts of civic responsibility, we can begin to reduce the cost of law enforcement and contribute significantly to keeping down consumer costs for retail goods.



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ACCREDITED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

- 1 c. golden raisins
- 1 c. shelled sunflower seeds
- 1 c. pecans
- ½ c. almonds or dry roasted peanuts
- 1 small package of dried apricots, cut in 4
- 1 c. small pitted prunes, cut in half

This is not an inexpensive mix, but considering the nutrients it supplies and the satisfaction that results from nibbling on something sweet and crunchy, it's cheap at twice the cost! Of course, you can add other dried fruits and all varieties of seeds and nuts and coconut chips, but the calories and cost rise accordingly.

I know you can buy these mixes already made from bins in the supermarket, but one day I chanced to see a young man refilling the bins. Between combing his hair and tying his shoelaces to wiping his nose and then handling the mixtures, I was convinced that making my own mix from pre-packaged ingredients was the only way to go, no matter the cost.

More good stuff

Instead of a heavy fruit cake — which you know you will enjoy somewhere during the holidays — why not bake cranberry or nut breads to serve with cream cheese?

Do you have an odd wine or champagne glass? Bring it to your hostess filled with one of these:

Spiced Cheese Spread: Blend 3 oz. of Gruyere or Swiss Cheese, shredded and blended with about 2 T. of

cream, 3 T. of Port wine, and a dash of ground

Apple Honey: Chop 1 parsnip and 1 cored apple, bring to a boil with 2 c. sugar, 1 T. honey, grated orange, and ½ c. orange juice. Lower heat and about 45 minutes, stirring often. When done, add Cointreau and pour into 4 clean glasses and cover with a lid. Preserve if it isn't eaten right away.

Curry Butter: Cream 1 cube of butter with 1/2 t. paprika, 1/2 t. cayenne and ground black pepper. Roll into a fat stick, wrap in foil and chill. This is great on fish and meats and potatoes.

Stocking stuffers

If you don't have cooking time but want to whip up a gift, get some new wooden spoons, a French whip, a new pastry cloth and sleeve, or a tiny timer with which to check the oven temperature.

Olga Billones Bier, an Albany resident and mother, teaches culinary art at Contra Costa College and summer home economics departments at El Cerrito High School. She holds a degree in art, home economics and English from UC-Berkeley and an MA in education from the University of Francisco.

Anyone with hints for this column or questions may write to Olga Bier, care of the Times Journal, 1247 Solano Ave., 94706.

Pet Ebio Fontanosa D.M.D.

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The nestegg to beat all nesteggs



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The N.O.W. Account just might be the best place to gather all your nesteggs. Because the larger your N.O.W. balance is, the higher your return will be. Just by maintaining a minimum balance of \$1,500 in N.O.W., or an average balance of \$3,000, you not only get a 5 1/4% interest rate** — the maximum allowed by law — you also get a personal checking account with no monthly service charges and free special bank checks. You get interest and save money.

Should your balance fall below either a minimum of

\$1,500 or an average of \$3,000 during any month you charged a \$3.00 service fee per statement period plus handling charge for each check paid during that same period. So it could be to your benefit to consolidate all your savings accounts into one N.O.W. Account at the Mechanics Bank.

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So don't be confused by what you hear. The simple fact is, no one can offer you more than your nearby Mechanics Bank. Come in today and see if the N.O.W. Account is the best nestegg for all your nesteggs.

* Negotiable Order on Withdrawal

** Computed daily

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Closer to home

Our intrepid food columnist goes to Victorian England

By OLGA BIER

Past the stand where the brown chestnuts roast, led by the sooty faced man in his tattered velvet coat... past the tall, tall Christmas tree in the square, decorated with colored bows and garlands of white poppies, come and step into a scene long gone by. The festive time of Christmas Past becomes a vivid Christmas scene when one joins in the grand pretense of being in Victorian London at the Yuletide season.

To play this game, just enter the large structure at Mason's Pier 3 and journey back in time from San Francisco's crisp, sparkling clear December, 1980, to the snow and noisy streets of London town in the mid-1800s.

The sound of the pipes and drums beckon down the cobbled alleys and the speech and the clothes of the Dickens scene seem so right that those in jeans and down coats are the strangers from a Christmas not yet past.

A peal of gentle laughter draws attention to a merry group conversing in front of the Cookie Cutter's Stall on Honey's Alley. Looking ever so much like an animated Christmas card, two young ladies, dressed in velvet coats and bonnets trimmed in fur are engaged in viewing cookie cutters from the many intricate shapes on display. The young man with them, in his soft grey coat and tall hat, holds an animal-shaped cutter and feigns attack with a gentle roar, much to the delight of the young ladies. The caramel sweet smell of cinnamon buns in a nearby shop divert their attention as they laughingly turn to search for something good to eat. And something good to eat abounds. For there, at the corner of Hanging Sword Lane and Fish Street, beyond Old Sal's bawdy Dockside Ale House, is a row of shops serving choice morsels of many kinds.

As scurrying maids run by on their errands in their aprons and dust caps, carrying napkin covered baskets, one need not notice the bright blue Addidas and the

crepe soled Fannolares which flash beneath their skirts. Just follow them, past the acrid odor of the vinegar from the Fish and Chips Shop, around the Soft Pretzel Wagon. Take care not to brush against the tall cowboy in the ten gallon hat, dripping mustard down his fingers and on to the embroidered cuff of his fringed shirt. Surely he is from another time, another place. But, like you, he is enjoying the sounds and smells and above all the tastes of the Dickens Fair.

There are shops displaying tender-crusted steak and kidney pies, juicy roast beef, piled high next to a moist puff of Yorkshire pudding. And there - are the legendary rum-soaked trifles and plum puddings with their sweet hard sauce! For those with only tuppence, such fare is for dreaming.

The commonfolk can buy a Scotch egg and savor the blend of rich sausage meat wrapped around a boiled egg and deep fried to a crunchy brown. Ale, stout, mulled wine, and hot toddies are offered to those with the age and the price. The children clamor for toffee and chocolates, shortbread, and buttered yams with cinnamon and honey.

Quickly now, let's follow the old Queen herself as she walks through the dimly lit ways, escorted by guards and trailed by her loving subjects.

"Your majesty! Your majesty, what would please your taste on this stroll today?"

"Oh, a bowl of hot onion soup, madam," she replies. A worthy idea.

The steaming soup is ladled by a comely young serving maid and sent into the brick oven on a plank to melt the mound of cheese that covers the rich, brown broth. Victoria certainly knows her onions.

It's hard to leave, but there is more to see and do in London this day. The dolls and toys and caps and shirts and games and jewelry and books and musical instruments and so much more must all be inspected. No matter that some of the wares are a wee bit out of time and



—Times Journal photo by Olga Bier

Victorian gentry pause to eat sausage pie at the fair

Cedar Creek Montessori
Ages 2½-6 Hours 7:30-6 p.m.
Cedar-Sacramento Area, Berkeley
525-3338



Senior centers

(Continued from Page 6)

Menus

The Nutrition site meal is served at 4 p.m. Advance reservations are required. The suggested minimum donation is \$75 for seniors, \$3 for persons under age 60. Wednesday, Dec. 17, chicken; Thursday, Dec. 18, turkey steak; Friday, Dec. 19, smoked pork; Monday, Dec. 22, macaroni and cheese; Tuesday, Dec. 23, beef au gratin; Wednesday, Dec. 24, holiday dinner, roast

KENSINGTON

Kensington Senior Activity Center, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. every Thursday at 52 Arlington Ave., offers workshops in crafts, table games and bridge to senior citizens special programs at 1 a.m.

The first Thursday of the month is a potluck lunch served by Nancy Barnes (\$1.50). For the rest of the month, bring a bag lunch. Coffee and dessert are available for 35 cents.

From 9 to 11 a.m., there will be crafts, conversation coffee, featuring creativity with ceramics.

From 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Lucy Adams will aid people who wish to write biographical sketches and family histories.

The meditation group meets from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

On Dec. 18, Leo Vuosalo will present a program of special events.

Caring Circle

Art and literature group meets each Tuesday from 10 a.m. until noon in the Fireside Room of the First Christian Church, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. On the third and fourth Tuesday of each month there is a noon luncheon with the Caring Circle. For information call Clara Smith, 527-5381, or Judy Fabry, 526-5626.

EL CERRITO

Christ Lutheran

Mondays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 780 Ashbury Ave. at the Senior Center: craft classes in the morning; 50-cent lunch at the afternoon program of information, speakers, community singing, sitdown exercises and folk dancing. Classes in making pressed flower stationery, macrame, jewelry, weaving are taught at the center which is sponsored by Richmond Adult Education.

On Dec. 22, there will be a Christmas party, with the center open from 9-2 as usual. After lunch, special music by Karon Kilon.

St. John's Center

St. John's Center is for El Cerrito residents 60 or more who meet in the Catacombs building, 570 Gladys St., from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (phone Tuesdays 524-2797, or call center director N. Gans at 529-

The center is part of the Richmond Unified School Education program for seniors, and is run by supervised volunteers.

Craft classes are held from 9 a.m. to noon; ceramics, pottery, tin and glass, macrame, knitting and crocheting, watercolor painting, weaving, cards and table decorations and nutrition.

There is a guest speaker following the free lunch. There is community singing, sitdown exercises and dancing until 2 p.m.

Dec. 23 will be a Christmas celebration.

Open House

Drop-in Center, 6500 Stockton Ave., behind the library, phone 526-0124. Lunch daily at noon. Programs are free. Monday: bridge, 12:30-2 p.m.; guitar workshop, 7 p.m.

Tuesday: fitness, 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.; arts and crafts, 9:30-10:15 a.m.; bridge, 12:30-2 p.m.

Wednesday: Tai Chi (Dec. 17), 10-11 a.m.

Programs are free.

Program

Consumer rights

Women and credit

(This column is one in a series on consumer rights prepared by the California Trial Lawyers Association.)

The Federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA) prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex or marital status in any aspect of a credit transaction. (The ECOA also forbids discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, national origin, religion, receipt of public assistance payments, or the fact that an applicant has exercised rights under federal consumer credit protection laws.)

A married woman opening a new account should indicate on the application form whether she wants to share the account with her husband. Under the ECOA the creditor must report information on shared ac-

Vaccine shots to be given

Pneumococcal vaccine shots are now available at all Alameda County Health Care Services Agency public health flu clinics for the prevention of pneumonia and other diseases such as meningitis, middle ear infection and blood stream infection caused by pneumococcal organisms.

Persons considered to have the highest risk to their health if they contract flu or any of the pneumococcal diseases are individuals 55 and over or any person with a chronic disease such as diabetes, respiratory condition or heart disorder, according to Dr. Nicholas Toth, acting county health officer.

There is no charge for a flu or pneumococcal shot for anyone in the high risk group, Dr. Toth said.

Persons who have already received a flu shot this year may return to a flu clinic at any of the Agency public health centers and receive the pneumococcal vaccination.

A flu shot and a pneumococcal shot may also be obtained at the same time at any of the flu clinics, Dr. Toth said.

The pneumococcal vaccine provides immunity for three years, after which a booster is required.

The pneumococcal vaccine will be available at the health centers through early 1981. At present, it may be obtained at any of the flu clinics now being held.

For information call 522-0889.

Dance group makes home in Berkeley

Henry Harris Green and Company has just become the resident dance company of the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts in Berkeley. Robin Nasar, company manager, has already moved into the company's new office at the center, 1819 Tenth St., Berkeley, and can be reached at 841-3100.

The company will move into its new home upon returning from its December tour in Oregon. Members of Henry Harris Green and Co. will be teaching classes, along with guest teachers, beginning early next year.

Craft sale in Oakland

Creative Growth, an art center for people with handicaps, is having its annual Christmas sale of arts and crafts by Bay Area and Creative Growth artists, Dec. 1-24.

Hours are weekdays and Saturdays, 10-6. Creative Growth is located at 355 24th St., Oakland.

Proceeds from the Christmas sale will go toward the Creative Growth scholarship fund, making it possible for more people with handicaps to attend the art center.

Concert set at UC-Berkeley

A concert of contemporary music will be presented Friday, Jan. 16, at 8 p.m., in Hertz Hall at UC-Berkeley. The program will include premiere performances of Allan Pollack's "Piano Sonata" and Frank Larocca's "String Trio" and performances of Frank Stemper's "Humble Cake" for chamber ensemble and Richard Festinger's "Tryptich" for unaccompanied flute.

Admission is free. For further information call 644-2497.

rears in both spouses' separate names, even if one spouse is not employed.

If a woman is now sharing or has in the past shared accounts with her current or former husband which were established before June 1, 1977, she should visit or telephone her local

credit bureau to check whether these accounts are listed in her separate file. They are part of her credit history even if they are now closed.

If the accounts were reported only in her husband's or former husband's name, she should ask to

have them added to her file, too. The credit bureau cannot charge a fee for placing information already reported under the husband's name into a file in the wife's name.

When a woman applies for credit, the creditor must consider any shared credit

history she may have when evaluating her application.

The laws of California give both spouses control over the property they hold in common, so creditors need to check on the husband's finances to make sure the couple's joint assets can cover any new credit obligations.

(To obtain a pamphlet, contact the California Trial Lawyers Association, 1020 12th St., Sacramento 95814. Please specify.)

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League seeks financial survival, dignity

The first national grassroots organization in the U.S. of and for middle-aged and older women has just been created — the Older Women's League.

The pioneering group came out of a meeting a few days ago of about 400 of this fastest growing minority in our country at Des Moines, Iowa. While the OWL is not government-sponsored and while the conference was not arranged to promote OWL membership, the Des Moines mini-conference was set up to discuss the issues of concern to middle-aged and older women in preparation for 1981's White House Conference on Aging.

OWL's concerns are the same — the basic problems of personal financial survival and dignity in the older years, notes Tish Sommers, one of the prime movers behind OWL. No arbitrary age is established as a qualification for membership.

The problems of the older years begin in middle age and even earlier, Sommers says, pointing out that some women have been turned down for apprenticeship programs as too old at 28.

the holidays. The recipient can pick up the animal after the holidays. Shown here is Joshua Reed of Albany. Gift certificates may be obtained at the humane society, 2700 Ninth St., Berkeley, Monday through Friday 9 to 5, Saturday 9:30 to 3:30, and Sunday 1 to 3. Phone 845-3633.

Women 65 and older are not only the fastest-growing segment of our population, but they also are the single poorest group. Their average income in 1979 was an almost incredible \$59 a week, as against \$106 per week for older men. What's more, the grim outlook for younger women still at work is that one out of four of you can look forward to living in poverty in your older years.

The poverty rate for older women is about 65 percent higher than for older men. One-third of all widows live below the poverty line — and live there a long time.

The average age of widowhood in the U.S. is 56 and more than one of every two women can expect to be a widow at 65 or later. The average age of widowhood is estimated as extending over 18 years.

"The critical situation of hundreds of thousands of elderly women in this country is generally overlooked," Sommers stresses. "As a group they are invisible and their plight is masked by statistics that lump together all the aged — men, women

and couples."

Social Security, with all its built-in inequities for women, is the sole source of support for large numbers of older women. Their benefits are well below those paid to men because women's earnings are only about 60 percent of the earnings of men and because their wage-related benefits are reduced still more by their absences from the labor force to handle family responsibilities. Homemaking is not recognized as a legitimate occupation for the purpose of earning Social Security credit.

Fewer than 20 percent of older women collect private pension payments either on their own or as widows and

those who do are paid low benefits. On top of their low wages, women tend to be in the bottom echelon part-time or temporary jobs not covered under the pension program. A full half of all women now working are in jobs with no pension coverage.

There also is a provision called the "widow's black-out" in most pensions that denies a survivor's benefit to the spouse of a worker who dies before "early retirement age," usually 55. What the husband intended and expected for his widow simply doesn't count.

The "outpost" privilege is another catch in private pensions. Under most pension plans, a worker can opt for a reduced pension in

order to provide for a survivor's benefit for his widow. But if he turns down that option, rarely is the wife notified that she'll get no pension in case of his death; the news comes as an ugly shock. Only about 2 percent of widows get their husband's pension checks.

The upsurge in costs of all types of shelter is still another blow, for there are few options open to impoverished women who often are thrown out of even the most marginal housing.

For more information about the Older Women's League, write to 388 Harrison St., Oakland, Calif., 94611.



HUMANE HOLIDAY — Albany's Humane Education Center for the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society, has a holiday gift suggestion for animal lovers. Anyone interested in giving a kitten or puppy may want to buy a gift certificate for an animal. Arnold, a donation is given to the society for each gift certificate, which is given during

Staying healthy

Estrogen creams

WINIFRED COX
K. San Jose

productive biologists at the University of California at San Diego's School of Medicine have announced news and bad about the symptoms of menopause.

Good news is that the creams in creams applied directly to the interior of the vagina are absorbed by the bloodstream with greater efficiency than when taken orally, in form.

Bad news is that, though the potency of vaginal creams, physicians prescribed them for menopausal women who avoid estrogens, as patients who have breast cancer. Breast cancers are treated by estrogen, and UCSD study shows that men with such cancers get a more direct and potent form of the hormone from the cream than would from pills. Investigators demonstrated their findings in a recent Journal of the American Medical Association. This clinical study on patients confirms reports from studies in laboratory setting that creams applied locally in vagina are absorbed with rapidity and efficiency.

The article says that estrogen levels were attained by daily vaginal applications of the cream, and there was no negative effect.

Investigators urge physicians to prescribe estrogen creams to women who have had cancer, however.

Previously it was thought that the estrogen had a local effect only.

The UCSD researchers say "physicians now recognize that an estrogen cream which is systemic as local in its effect."

Women who can tolerate estrogens, however, can take creams as an alternative over pills. Estrogen is the main ingredient.

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TIMES

JOURNAL

El Cerrito drama prof becomes a student again

By ROBERTA ALEXANDER

EL CERRITO — Sam Elkind has become a devotee of Polish drama, and it's something he can trace, at least in part, to his having worked his way through college by playing the piano in a dance band.

Elkind, a professor of theatre arts at San Francisco State University, was selected last summer as a fellow of the Humanities Institute of Contemporary European Drama and Theatre.

Elkind called his six weeks at the institute, which is run by the City University of New York, "a highlight of my career."

The institute's program involved 20 scholars, only two of whom were from the West Coast, studying the works of playwrights whose names do not trip off the tongue of most theatre-goers.



—Times Journal photo by Trent Saviers

Sam Elkind

Elkind called his colleagues at the institute "prima-donnas" in their fields; "this was the crème de la crème," he said, adding that he was "very flattered" to be selected.

His selection in fact illustrates his belief that events are connected: "everything you do leads to a mosaic," he said.

For Elkind, the path to Polish literature may have begun when he was a young musician growing up in San Francisco.

"I started out to be a music teacher," Elkind recalled. "I had my own dance orchestra, that's how I got my way through college."

Elkind said that he even performed briefly in a balalaika orchestra; "Russian music was popular here in the '30s," he said.

He was always fascinated with radio, he said, and it was an interest he pursued in the service, ending up as program director for the armed forces radio network during the Allied occupation.

Back in civilian life, Elkind became an account executive for a radio station. That way lay ulcers, he said, so he decided to teach drama instead.

He spent 14 years at El Cerrito High School, where he formed the fine arts department. Before the school became a theatre, he put on plays in the gymnasium.

He had a precedent: "in French theatre, the ballroom was converted into a theatre for Moliere," he said.

His tenure there was marked by a great deal of drama, he said.

The administration was certainly pleased to see 900 students packed in the gym to see "The Crucible," he said.

Elkind's advanced acting students also formed a children's theatre company which presented plays at nearby elementary schools.

One year we travelled with a one-act opera," he said. El Cerrito was very art-oriented. In fact, the concert of the Oakland Symphony came and conducted our school orchestra."

In the late sixties, Elkind started teaching at San Francisco State. He'd written a doctoral dissertation on the subject of drama and self-discovery for adolescents,

Section two

and this had led to his publishing several books of scenes for young actors, which have continued to be popular in the U.S. and abroad ("much to my surprise," he commented).

Elkind specializes in teaching improvisational drama and he also directs plays.

"I'd already directed a play by Mrozek (a Polish playwright) before I learned about the institute," he said. "When I applied I didn't think I'd be accepted."

So maybe it was the balalaika orchestra or the fact that Elkind's mother was from Lodz, Poland, and his father from Russia that aided his acceptance, he said. At any rate, as a result of his attendance, he is committed to trying to include works by writers like Mrozek, Witkacy and Gombrowicz in the college's curriculum, as well as directing more of their plays.

"The great Polish playwrights have written plays that were never produced in Poland," he said. "Many lived in exile."

"Some of these plays were written 50 years ago, but still have great merit," he went on. "There is a great culture held down there and that fascinates me."

Elkind said that the Polish plays often have been avant-garde; "they are also highly theatrical in an untraditional way."

Some of these playwrights never expected to see their works produced on a stage, they sometimes asked for fantastic things.

"These plays require attention to philosophy, poetry, metaphysics," he said. "They are not everyone's dish of tea."

He said that some plays deal with ghosts or may have a character die in the first act and then reappear in the third.

"They are not linear stories, and you don't always know if it is real or imagination," he said.

These plays are challenging not only for audiences, but for the cast and the director as well. He loves directing and is intrigued with the complexities the plays present.

"I also love to teach and I teach well," he said. "You'd be crazy to stay in teaching if you didn't love it."

And while he has loved it, it hasn't prevented him from doing other things as well. For years he played the piano for dances in Richmond and he served as principal of a religious school when his two daughters were growing up.

He's also been involved with the Theatre in Education program, an English project that he studied while on sabbatical.

"It's a very vivid and accessible way of dealing with community problems," he explained.

A team of actors with teaching skills would dramatize a situation — perhaps unemployment in an area — and use it to stimulate discussion among students. Elkind has explained the program to many American groups.

He's also supervised a summer study program in Athens, Greece, in which students round out their studies by performing a classic Greek play in English.

"I'm an Anglophile, and I've taken students to England and Scotland to study theatre," he said. He takes another group in January.

Next on his agenda is a plan to direct a play by Witkacy. "When you're a director, you're a psychologist," he noted. "You should always approach the teaching of drama with awe."

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Mervyn's pre-Christmas clearance starts Friday!

Here are some of the hundreds of items we've reduced to clear before Christmas...lots of great gift ideas, but quantities are limited to stock on hand, so shop early for best selection!

save 33% to 50%

for children

Boys' long sleeve shirts, neat styles. Orig. 10.00-15.00, 5.98-9.98..... 33%-40% off
 Boys' fashion slacks in student waist sizes 26-30. Orig. 17.00, 10.98..... 35% off
 Boys' and students' suits in 3-pc. styles. Orig. 52.00, 58.00, 33.98, 37.98..... 34% off
 Boys' sweater vests in acrylic knits. S-M-L fit 8-18. Orig. 8.00, 4.98..... 37% off
 Boys' ski vests in nylon with polyester fill. S-XL fit 8-18. Orig. 25.00, 15.98..... 36% off
 Girls' winter coats in boot lengths. Orig. 33.00-38.00, 21.98-24.98..... 33% off
 Girls' tops include shirts, blouses, pant tops, tees. Orig. 4.50-9.00, 2.98-5.98..... 33% off
 Girls' handbags in a selection of nifty styles. Orig. 3.00-6.00, 1.98-3.98..... 33% off
 Girls' jeans and pants including top labels. Orig. 9.00-20.00, 5.98-12.98..... 33% off
 Girls' dresses, jumpers in easy care fabrics. Orig. 12.00-14.00, 7.98-8.98..... 33% off
 Infants' clothing, separates, dresses, sets. Orig. 6.00-16.00, 3.98-10.48..... 33% off
 Babies' sweater sets boxed for gifts. Good choices! Orig. 10.00, 6.48..... 33% off
 Toddlers' pantsets in dress up styles. Orig. 12.00-18.00, 7.98-11.98..... 33% off
 Toddlers' velour tops in polyester/cotton. Orig. 9.00 and 15.00, 5.98, 9.98..... 33% off
 Toddlers' plaid shirts in cotton flannel. Long sleeves. Orig. 6.00, 3.98..... 33% off
 Drive Command™ cars by Mattel®. Radio controlled. Orig. 29.99, 19.98..... 33% off
 Ideal® race set, TCR™ Lighted Blazers™ Jam Car Rallye™. Orig. 49.99, 19.98..... 61% off
 Selected games by Hasbro® for the family. Orig. 12.99-14.99, 7.98..... 38%-46% off
 Dolls, including Mattel® Love N' Touch™. Orig. 13.99-16.99, 7.98..... 43%-53% off

for women

Loungewear collection in easy care fabrics. Orig. 17.00-20.00, 10.98-12.98..... 33% off
 Dreamy sleepwear, lots of styles. Orig. 10.00-20.00, 5.98-12.98..... 33%-40% off
 Junior pants, orig. 20.00, 12.98.... 35% off
 Junior knit tops in cotton or acrylic. Super colors! Orig. 8.00, 4.98..... 37% off
 Full figure pant tops in popular styles. Orig. 14.00 and 16.00, 8.98 and 9.98..... 35% off
 Misses' fashion pants with belts or pleats. Orig. 13.00-22.00, 7.98-13.98..... 36% off
 Junior and misses' dresses, rush in! Orig. 20.00-30.00, 9.98-19.98..... 33%-50% off
 Junior and misses' tops, orig. 12.00, 14.00, 7.98, 8.98..... 33% and 35% off
 Costume jewelry, pins, earrings and more, orig. 3.00-5.00, 1.98-2.98... 33%-40% off
 Famous maker square or oblong scarves, orig. 4.00-7.00, 2.48-4.48... 36%-38% off
 Fashion shades in ultrasheer pantyhose for the holidays, orig. 2.00, 1.28.... 36% off
 Precious 14k gold zodiac charm holder for all signs, orig. 50.00, 33.28..... 33% off

for everyone

Our entire stock of manicure sets, orig. 4.50 to 7.50, 2.98 to 4.98..... 33% off
 Gift soap sets by Bioessence and Prestige Place, orig. 4.00-6.00, 2.48-3.98.... 33% off
 Tasty gift sets of holiday food, orig. 6.00 to 10.00, 2.98 to 4.98..... 50% off
 Silk-look flower and candle arrangements, orig. 5.50-9.00, 3.48-5.98... 33%-36% off
 Ceramic accessories, orig. 4.00 to 5.00, 2.48 to 3.28..... 33%-38% off
 Selected digital watches, many styles, orig. 24.95 to 34.95, 15.98 to 22.98..... 33% off
 Roller skates in adult sizes for fun the year 'round! Orig. 39.99, 19.98..... 50% off

for men

Long and short sleeve dress shirts 9.00 to 14.00, 5.98 to 8.98..... 33% off
 Woven sport shirts, short, long sleeve orig. 10.00 to 21.50, 5.98 to 11.98..... 40% off
 Classic blazers and belted slacks 23.00 to 50.00, 14.98 to 32.98..... 34% off
 Split leather jackets and vests, orig. and 70.00, 29.98 and 44.98..... 33% off
 Levi's® shirts, orig. 18.00, 11.98..... 33% off
 Collared knit shirts in polyester/cotton 12.00-16.00, 7.18-9.58..... 40% off
 Print tee shirts, orig. 6.00, 3.58.... 40% off

for the home

Kiss A Cat sheet sets for twin to king orig. 19.00 to 38.00, 9.48 to 18.48..... 50% off
 Pure cotton woven spreads, twin orig. 25.00 to 40.00, 7.98 to 12.98..... 66% off
 Beaucaire and Martinique print orig. 2.40 to 8.00, 1.18 to 3.98..... 50% off
 Bean bag chairs, orig. 15.00, 8.98..... 50% off
 Plaid sport throws, 50x60" size in acrylic, orig. 16.00, 9.98..... 33% off
 Christmas elf pattern kitchen curtains orig. 1.75 to 5.50, 78¢ to 2.48..... 50% off
 Selected tablecloths, some with silk orig. 12.99 to 29.99, 6.48 to 14.98..... 50% off
 Christmas pattern kitchen accessories orig. 2.00 to 2.50, 98¢..... 33%-50% off
 Quilt fabric, nylon cire or Holly Hobbie 7.00 yd./panel, 3.48 yd./panel..... 50% off
 Christmas kits and fabric, selected brig. 1.50 to 12.00, 74¢ to 5.98..... 50% off
 Famous maker stitchery kit selected 4.00 to 16.00, 2.38 to 9.58..... 50% off
 Felt Christmas ornaments to brighten tree or for gifts, orig. 2.00, 98¢..... 50% off

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Churches

ALBANY

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Warren Debenham will celebrate Holy Communion today at 11:30.

Christmas carols will ring out along the BART route when members and friends of St. Alban's go caroling on Friday, Dec. 19, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Singers will meet at the church at 7:15 p.m. and go together to BART, led by the Cursillistas.

On Sunday, Dec. 21, the Fourth Sunday in Advent, a 10 a.m. service will be replaced by the annual Christmas pageant. James Lamb and Nat Jacobson will serve as ushers.

The church is located at 1501 Washington Ave., Albany.

Albany United Methodist Church

On Sunday, Dec. 21, services will be held at 11 a.m. The Rev. Dr. Peter Ahn will use as his sermon topic "Born of the Holy Spirit," based on Matthew 1, verses 18 through 25. Worship leader will be Fern Jeitz.

The toddler's play group will meet Tuesday, Dec. 23, from 9:30 to 11:30. On Wednesday, Dec. 24, there will be a Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7:30 p.m. Child care is provided every Sunday during services.

The church is located at 980 Stannage Ave.

First Baptist Church of Albany

The lighting of the fourth Advent candle and a musical service will be featured at the 11 a.m. Sunday worship. The senior choir under the direction of LaVaughn Hill will sing four anthems.

Contemporary Advent music will be sung by "The Group" and Nueva Esperanza, both under the direction of Sherri McDonough. Organist Deborah Allin will accompany the choral music and lead the congregation in the singing of Christmas hymns and carols. Interim minister Dr. John E. Skoglund will continue the series of Advent sermons based on Luke's Gospel. The theme for his Sunday will be: "Saviour in Swaddling Clothes" from Luke 2:11-12.

On Sunday evening the choir will hold its annual Christmas party at the Skoglund home.

Today's Bible and prayer fellowship meets at 10:30 a.m. The Bible study will be Galatians 4.

The church is located at Solano and Pomona Avenues.

THOUSAND OAKS

Epworth United Methodist Church

For Christmas Sunday, Dec. 21, Pastor David F. George will carry out the theme "God's Gift of Presence". The service begins at 10 a.m. and will include a special one for the children before they go to their "creative expression" class.

At 11 a.m. the whole church will be invited to take a tour of many lands. Room will be set up to give the Christmas experience through many cultures.

A Christmas concert will be presented in the sanctuary at 4 p.m. Choir director John Hiestand and organist Stan Radice will offer varieties of Christmas music. A reception for them will follow.

There will be all-church Christmas caroling at 5:30 p.m. followed by a hot chocolate party.

On Christmas Eve there will be a service at the church at 7 p.m. for all ages but especially for children.

The church is located in the Thousand Oaks district of north Berkeley at 1953 Hopkins St. Phone: 524-2921.

EL CERRITO

Mirra Vista Church

The church school will present a Christmas pageant the congregation during the hour of worship, 10 a.m., on Sunday Dec. 21. The pageant will tell the story of Christmas involving children 2 to 8 years old, and includes five Christmas carols to be sung by the congregation. The public is welcome.

The church is located at 7075 Cutting Blvd., El Cerrito.

Northminster Presbyterian Church

The church holds its Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday school begins at 10:45; children are encouraged to attend the first part of the service with their parents. Children will participate in the lighting of the advent candles through December. Child care is provided.

On Sunday, Dec. 21, there will be a joint coffee hour with the Lutheran Community of the Resurrection at 10 a.m.; there will be a joint Christmas choir made up of the Lutheran and Northminster congregations singing both during the Lutheran's 9 a.m. and Northminster's 10:30 a.m. service. Music will be provided by a recorder ensemble playing Renaissance dance music.

Christmas Eve at 8 p.m. will be a service of carols and lights. All are invited to attend.

The church is located at 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito.

KENSINGTON

Arlington Community Church

The traditional Christmas Eve service will be held on Dec. 24 at 11 p.m. The sanctuary choir will present a work entitled "Gaudete" which includes Christmas masses from Piae Cantiones, Swedish holy songs. This collection of songs was first published in 1582, and have been compiled by composer Anders Ohrwall. This was first performed in 1962 to introduce Swedish Christmas music for mixed chorus and instruments. Selections based on the Scriptures will be interspersed in the work, along with congregational singing. The instrumental accompaniment will be played by flutists Apple Seabury and Anne Larson, and bassoonist Marlene Chapman. The choir is under the direction of Marguerite Rule, with Oscar Burdick as organist.

Following this presentation, a communion service will be led by pastor Rev. Kenneth H. Barnes, followed by lighting of candles and ringing of bells at midnight.

Also on Christmas Eve, at 5 p.m., the children's

Holiday greeting cards help support UNICEF

The United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF) has a new collection of holiday greeting cards and money. These are available at the U.N.A. Information Center upstairs in Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. As in other years, volunteers are assisting at the

UNICEF sales campaign is a reach of reaching out to the world's most deprived children through UNICEF.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, at Bancroft and Ellsworth in Berkeley, will offer its 38th annual service of Christmas lessons and carols on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 4 p.m.

This traditional service will include readings from Scripture, choral music, and congregational singing of hymns. The choir, under the direction of David Lee Maulsby, will sing works by Victoria, Morales, Hassler, and Walton.

The 1980 collection offers something for every occasion and need. Shoppers

can choose from Christmas cards, postcards, mini-notes, birthday greetings, and the new "Super Box" collection of notes and stationery. Gifts, records, and books are also on sale. A free catalog and more information are available by calling 849-1752.

Churches

Christmas service will be given in the sanctuary. A centaur entitled "Sing Christmas" by Letha Cole Crouch will be sung by the children's choir. The young people of the church will take part in the narration as well as in those scenes and tableaux. Kristen Jones and Marc Villa will narrate. Familiar carols will be sung by the children and the congregation. Henrietta Lahti and Edith Hetherington planned the service. The public is invited.

First Unitarian Church of Berkeley

On Sunday, Dec. 21, the family fireside service will be at 9:30 a.m., the seminar at 10, UU Inquiry at 10 and Sunday forum, also at 10.

The church is located at 1 Lawson Road, Kensington.

EAST BAY

North Congregational Church

The adult Bible study seminar this Sunday will look at Elijah the prophet in its continuing study of the Old Testament. The group meets at 9:30 a.m. under the leadership of the minister.

At the regular 11 a.m. service, the sanctuary choir will offer two Christmas anthems and Susan Rode Morris will offer a solo. This is Christmas Sunday and the Fourth Sunday in advent, and the fourth candle in the Advent wreath will be lighted before the Rev. Bob Graham delivers his Christmas message: "What Gift Shall I Bring?" Following the morning service there will be a coffee hour with Iva Pastorino and George Hutson acting as hostesses.

For Christmas Eve there will be a special shared dinner supper in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m., followed by a worship service in the sanctuary at 7 p.m., followed by candlelight singing on the steps of the church. All visitors will be welcome.

The church's youth director, Steve Stanton, invites any single adult between the ages of 18 and 30 to come to the gymnasium of the church any Friday or Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m., for a period of volleyball, fellowship and refreshments.

The church also is creating a new junior choir for boys and girls in the older elementary grades. For further information, call Joan Graham at 527-3134. A fellowship group for junior high people is also being formed.

The church is located at the corner of Walnut and Cedar Streets in north Berkeley.

County library adds services for seniors

A contribution of \$7,800 to the Contra Costa County Library from the Area Agency on Aging, from funds under the Older Americans Act, has made it possible for the library to expand its services to senior adults. With these funds the library has purchased 318 new large print books, 337 cassette tapes on topics of interest to older adults, 15 cassette players and two award-winning films: "Portraits of Aging" and "Nobody Ever Died of Old Age."

The large print books, cassette players and tapes are being distributed to branch libraries throughout the county for circulation to the public. Many of the tapes are of old radio comedies and performers such as Jack Benny, Fred Allen, Fibber McGee and Molly; others are on health and consumer education topics, radio mysteries, and narratives of the early west.

Individuals and groups who work with older persons will be especially interested in the two new films: "Nobody Ever Died of Old Age" dramatizes the lives of some very resourceful, independent persons in their later years. In episodes both serious and humorous, the film combines praise for old people with outrage at the dehumanization they experience at the hands of society.

It is based on a book of the same title by Sharon Curtin. "Portraits of

Aging" is a sensitive documentary on the experience of aging. The people in the film reveal an abundance of wisdom, dignity and joy in living.

For more information about these and other library materials and services available to senior adults, contact the nearest branch library or the Central Library of the Contra Costa County Library System.

BART has published a new interim train schedule for its Saturday service, which began operating Oct. 25 on all four of its routes. During Saturday service, trains operate every 20 minutes starting at 6 a.m. and remain in operation until 12 midnight. The new Saturday train schedule, which also includes the recently announced reduced fares, is available now in all BART stations.

William B. Fleisher, BART's director of field services, said "Saturday service has been very well received by our patrons and has proven to be very reliable. The publication and distribution of this interim schedule, we hope, will assist our patrons in planning their weekend travel for holiday shopping and other holiday travel."

Fleisher noted that within the next 90 days, BART is preparing to publish a new

Employment survey set

Local representatives of the U.S. Bureau of the Census will conduct a survey of employment in this area during the work week of Dec. 15-19.

The survey is conducted for the U.S. Department of Labor in a scientifically designed sample of approximately 84,000 households throughout the U.S. Employment and unemployment statistics based on results of this survey are used to provide a continuing

measure of the economic health of the nation.

For example, in October the survey indicated that the 105.2 million men and women in the civilian labor force, 97.2 million were employed. The nation's unemployment rate was 7.6 percent, about the same as in the prior 2 months.

Information supplied by individuals participating in the survey is kept strictly confidential by law and the results are used only to compile statistical totals.

BART offers reduced Christmas rates

weekend and night schedule in a format similar to the one which is now available providing information on Sunday and night service.

Train frequency on all four lines will be 20 minutes per line as a base service. This will translate into 10-minute train intervals along the Richmond, Oakland and Fremont lines, and approximately 6.6 minutes between Oakland

West and Daly City. After 6 p.m. trains begin the transition to night service, operating at 20-minute intervals, on two lines, Fremont-Richmond and Concord-Daly City.

The special holiday fares represent an average reduction of 30 percent from the regular fares and is effective all weekends in December and Christmas Day and New Year's Day only.

Child care group forms

Mothers and toddlers (18-30 months) are invited to join structured play time at the Berkeley/Richmond Jewish Community Center two mornings a week in the Toddler/Parent Co-op program.

Julie Greenberg, experienced early childhood teacher, works with the group from 10 a.m. to noon every Monday and Wednesday morning at the center.

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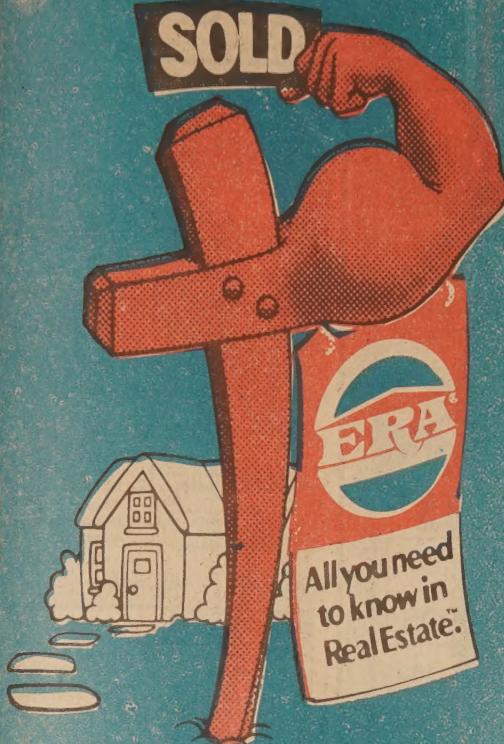
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OVER

With
Odd E. Haugen

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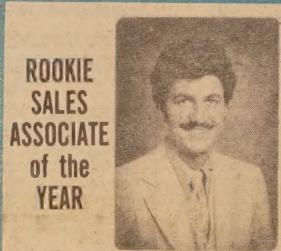
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It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

That's right. Even though the sun is shining and people are still playing golf and going to the beach, the holiday season is here.

It may not be a white one, unless you go to the Sierra, but Santa is coming and people are buying Christmas trees and gifts.

Here are some holiday pictures, upcoming local events and hints on trees.



St. Nick makes early visit

Santa Claus showed up recently to talk with children at the El Cerrito Community Center. Most of these local kids in the Tiny Tots program at the center seem to be captivated by the bearded old gent, but the two little ones on the left are still checking him out.

Times Journal photo by Trent Saviers



MUSIC MAKERS — Getting ready for the annual holiday concert are (from left) Liz Comte, flute soloist; Mike Reed, oboe soloist; and Cathy Chamberlain, bassoon soloist. Dr. Stephen Goldstone, who will narrate

How to choose the right Yule tree

Many people would rather do without a flag on the Fourth of July and a pumpkin on Halloween than endure Christmas without a tree.

Yet, a Yule tree debate prevails. Should you choose a cut, "living," or artificial one?

To select the tree, consider where you will place it. Along with measuring for height and width, take into account room dimensions so your tree will be the right proportions.

Test a cut tree for freshness. After running your hands over several branches, few, if any, needles should fall. A fresh color varies from dark green to pale bluish green. Look for limbs and branches which are strong,

even, able to support your decorations, and pliable enough for bending and tying for the return trip home.

When you get home, saw off the tree's butt an inch or so above the original cut.

Place the tree in a bucket of warm water, overnight if possible. When storing the tree before using, place it (freed from binding ropes), with the butt submerged in water, in a cool shady place protected from wind.

Sprinkle branches and needles daily with water.

Before decorating, hose the tree lightly to get rid of foreign matter; allow it to dry before trimming. Place it in a stand with a container holding water around the freshly cut base. Fill the water reservoir daily or as needed. Remove the tree when it begins to dry or brown. For disposal, consider grinding up branches to add to your compost pile or form a mulch around your rhododendrons.

Many people prefer a "living" tree for its year-round practicality and beauty. Before buying one, consider if you will plant it after the holidays or keep the tree in a container for future use (in that event you'll need a slow-grower). To plant the tree, you'll need a well-drained area which offers the right environment. Think about its growth pattern. Will the tree soon shade the tomatoes or venture onto the driveway?

A living tree, indoors, like a house plant, needs air, light, moisture and comfortable temperature. Keep the roots of the tree moist. If a tubbed tree is completely soaked before it is brought inside, it may not need watering. When the tree's rootball is set in a burr, place it in a container and water thoroughly. Don't allow the tree to stand in water. To protect

the floor, place a heavy plastic sheet under the container.

To decorate, use small lights, since large ones may scorch the tree. Don't use materials such as canned snow which could interfere with the tree's living process. The tree can be kept indoors about 10 days.

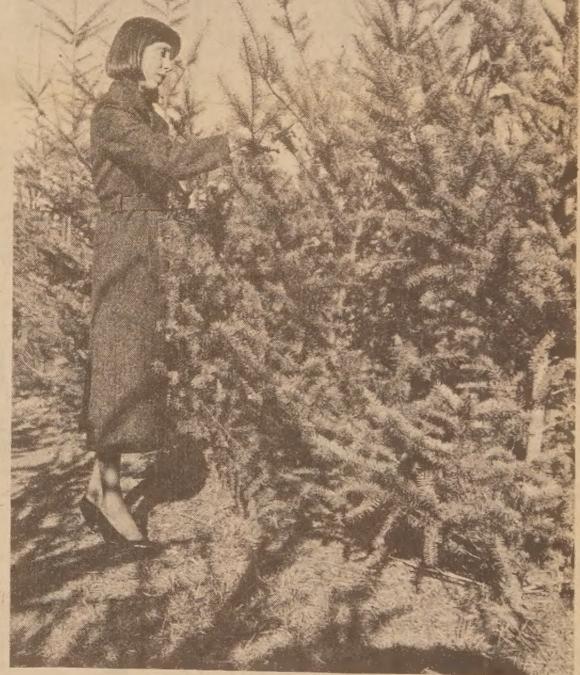
To plant, prepare the area before taking the tree outside. Dig a hole a little deeper and wider than necessary to fit the rootball. Add one-fourth planting mix to three-fourths soil, mix well and fill around the rootball as soon as you bring the tree outdoors. Water thoroughly.

What about an artificial tree? Specialists say they're easy to "dispose" or (stored in your attic) and holds health appeal for people who are allergic or sensitive to "real" trees.

Keep it away from all heat sources such as fireplaces and radiators. Use fireproof decorations. Before trimming, inspect bulbs, sockets and wires for electrical hazards. Discard light strings showing deterioration signs.

Whether cut, living, or artificial, your tree will help you celebrate the joyous holiday season. Merry Christmas!

Be careful with any tree.



Judith Watkins checks the merchandise at a Solano Avenue tree lot

Albany schools plan holiday music show

ALBANY — Nearly 200 young musicians from the music departments of Albany High School and Albany Middle School will combine their talents for a traditional holiday concert Thursday evening, Dec. 18. The free program will begin at 7 p.m. in a multi-purpose room at Albany Middle School. The program will begin in the middle school auditorium, directed by Ernest Douglas, which will play a finale from "Swan Lake," a movement from "Kuchler Violin Concerto," featuring the orchestra, violin section, "Plink, Plink, Plunk," by Leroy Anderson, and three movements from the "Christmas Carol" by Forrest Etting. The middle school cho-

rus, directed by Phillip Rolnick, will then sing "Christmas Morn is Dawn," "Calypso Noel," "Tumblalaika," "Silent Night," "Away In A Manger," "Coventry Carol" and "We Wish You A Merry Christmas." Soloists will be Chante Anderson, Melanie Eaton, Margaret Wright, Tina Chew and Kathy Tseng.

The middle school advanced band, directed by Bob Slous, will close the first half of the program with the "Theme from Rocky II," "Winter Wonderland" and "Nativity Songs for Band," arranged by William Rhoads.

At 8 p.m. the Albany High School choir, directed by

Dr. Stephen Goldstone, the superintendent of schools, will be featured as narrator when the high school orchestra plays Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf." The high school musicians will be augmented by members of the Albany Community Orchestra, directed by Douglas. Soloists will be Liz Comte, flute; Mike Reed, oboe; John Yi, clarinet; Cathy

Chamberlain, bassoon; and Sandy Brown, timpani.

The high school vocal ensemble, directed by Rolnick, will then sing "Hatifah," "The Canon in D" by Pachelbel, "Carol of the Drum," Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Mans' Desiring," and Kirby Shaw's "A Christmas Song." Drummer Brett Mifune will accompany the last song.

To close the program, the Albany High School orchestra, directed by student conductor Liz Comte, will play "Christmas Music For Orchestra," and the high school choir and orchestra will combine in a performance of "And The Glory Of The Lord," from Handel's "Messiah," directed by Douglas.

Holiday happenings . . .

'Living' Nativity

THOUSAND OAKS — On the evenings of Dec. 22 and from 7 to 8:30 p.m., the Epworth United Methodist Church will present a living Nativity scene at the Hopkins Street side of the church located at 1953 Hopkins St., in the Thousand Oaks district of north Berkeley. Carolers will sing Christmas hymns and people will play Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, wise men, and the church said the "living creche" will best be viewed by those strolling on the sidewalk or driving on the right side of Hopkins (parking places will be clear on these evenings) between Napa and Milvia in case of rain the event will be cancelled.

Holiday storytelling

ALBANY — The Ninnyhammers will return to the library with a special holiday program on Friday, Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. They will be joined by storytellers Gay Ducey and Linda Minor. On the program are Isaac Bashevis' "The Snow in Chelm" and Eleanor Farjeon's "Seventh Princess," the story of a determined queen and her seven daughters. The evening will conclude with a mummer's play, a slapstick folk version of St. George and the Dragon, with Renaissance music by Larry Rosenthal and Nancy Kesselring. The program is sponsored by The Friends of the Albany Library, Inc., who will also provide refreshments. For further information, please call Elizabeth Overton or Richard Russo at the Albany Library, 1216 S. St., S-3720.

• Classical Yule music

THOUSAND OAKS — The public is invited to a free concert of Christmas music performed by organist Jean Radice and tenor John Hiestand, choir director of Epworth United Methodist Church.

The concert will begin at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, in the sanctuary of Epworth United Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins St., in the Thousand Oaks district of north Berkeley.

Following the concert at about 5 p.m., a free reception will be held in the social hall honoring Radice and Hiestand.

Among the selections for voice and piano to be performed are: "Every Valley" by Handel; "Simple Gifts" by Copland; "Silent Night" by Barber; and two selections by Charles Ives.

Organ solos include: "Praeludium" in G" by Bruhns, "Greensleeves" by R. Vaughn Williams; "Les Bergers" by Messiaen; "Silent Night" by Barber and "Wachet Auf" by J. S. Bach.

• The 'Nutcracker'

The East Bay Ballet Theatre will present "Nutcracker" at the Florence Schwimley Theatre, Allston Way and Grove Street, Berkeley, on Friday, Dec. 19, at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 20, at 2:30 and 8 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 21 at 2:30 and 8 p.m., and Monday, Dec. 22, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3.50 for students and senior citizens. For more ticket information, call 841-8913.

• Day for kids, parents

THOUSAND OAKS — Epworth Methodist Church has a gift to give its neighbors during the holiday season.

On Saturday, Dec. 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., several church members will be on hand to entertain and care for children ages 2-11 with movies, games, activities, rest or play appropriate to their ages. Children of the church's neighbors may come for all or part of the four hours, and are asked to bring a sack lunch if they will attend during the noon hour. Other light refreshments will be available.

The purpose of providing this service is to give parents an opportunity for Christmas shopping or preparations free of distractions, knowing that their children are having fun and being well cared for, a church spokesperson said.

Parents who live in the vicinity of the church, located at 1953 Hopkins St., in the Thousand Oaks district of north Berkeley, and who wish to have their children participate may call 524-2921 (church office) with this information: Children's names and ages, home address and phone, any special needs (food allergies, etc.) of the child.

Reservations are requested by Dec. 18 so that sufficient supervision and appropriate activities can be provided.

• Concert at Laney

Laney College choral and instrumental groups will present a winter concert on Thursday, Dec. 18, at noon in the Laney Campus Theatre. Admission is free.

• Rent a Santa

EL CERRITO — If you'd like to have Santa Claus visit your children right before Christmas, just call the El Cerrito Community Center.

For the fourth year in a row, the center will offer Santa Claus visits in El Cerrito and the surrounding area from Dec. 19 through 24.

Parents must sign up for the program in person at the community center, 7007 Moeser Lane, according to center director Cliff Marchetti.

Cost is \$5 for residents, \$7 for non-residents for a 10-minute visit, which can be scheduled between 5:30 and 10:30 p.m.

When parents sign up, they can leave hints about what gift the child wants for Christmas, or they can leave a gift for Santa to deliver when he visits.

For further information, call Marchetti at the center, S25-6747.

• 'Candyland' in E.C.

EL CERRITO — The El Cerrito Community Services Department's recreation division will present its fourth annual Christmas "Candyland."

All children 14 years and under may participate in this giant version of the old children's game where children are the moving players. With the roll of the dice the children advance from square to square as they journey the land of candy and Christmas surprises. Santa will be there, too. Candyland will be held Tuesday, Dec. 23 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. Admission to the game is 50 cents per child.

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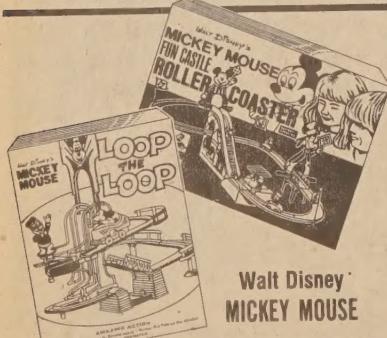


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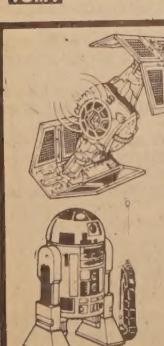


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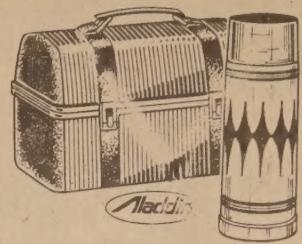
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